

### **The Paul Dresser Memorial**

The original birthplace, home of Paul Dresser, was located at 318 South Second street. It was moved to the present site through the efforts of the Vigo County Historical Society in 1973. The historical marker notes:

**Paul Dresser 1859-1906**

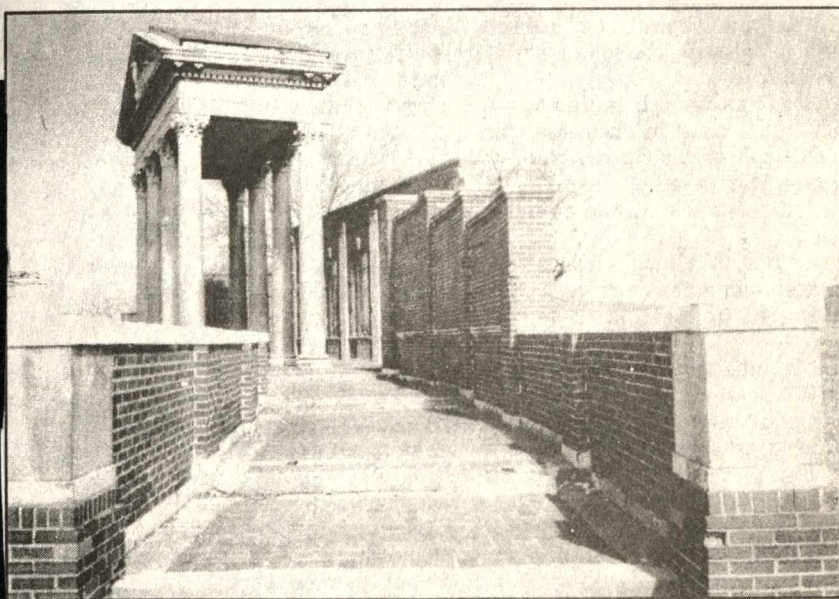
Composer of Indiana State song "On the Banks of the Wabash" and other songs popular in the "Gay Nineties". His famous bother Theodore Dresser wrote *An American Tragedy* and other novels."

### **The Amphitheater**

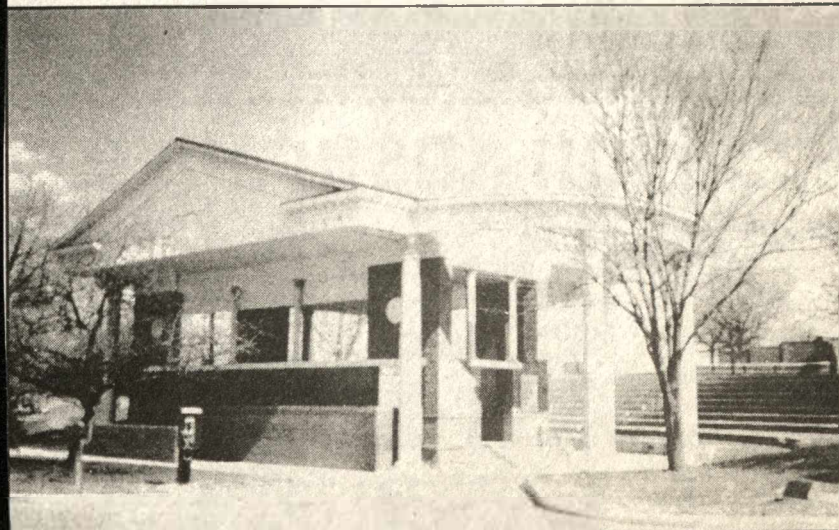
The amphitheater is the Charles Fairbanks Memorial. In the 1980s, the first phase of restoration was the construction of a stage and 1,000-seat amphitheater. The structure was dedicated in 2002. Funded by Wabash River Heritage Fund Grant-Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This was once the site of a bandstand, a small concrete structure, little used.



**Chauncey Rose Memorial in Fairbanks Park**



**Side view of Chauncey Rose Memorial**



**The Amphitheater**

PA 1

# BETWEEN<sup>the</sup> LINES

by G.B.C.



## **FAIRBANKS PARK: THE MEMORIALS** *by Russell L. Hamm*

Fairbanks Park, (38 acres), was donated to the city of Terre Haute in 1916 by Crawford and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fairbanks in the memory of Crawford and Edward's father, Henry Fairbanks, a one-time mayor of Terre Haute. Crawford endowed Emeline Fairbanks Public Library, now the Vigo County Library and the Clara Fairbanks Home for Aged Women. Patrick Ralson, writing January 23, 1985 in the *Terre Haute Gazette*, noted that the park had grown to 105 acres.

At one time the People's Brewing Company (1919-1933) was located northeast of the present-day Chauncey Rose Memorial. The 1936 Terre Haute Directory noted that the facility became the Terre Haute Ice, Fuel, and Coal storage. (Source: David Lewis, Vigo County Library.)

### **The Chauncey Rose Memorial**

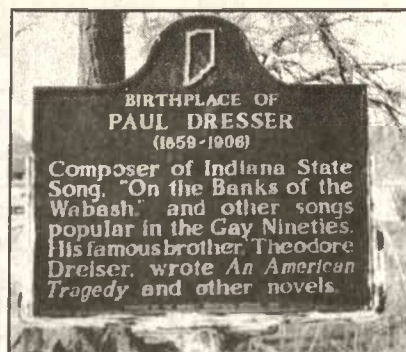
In 1938 the Chauncey Rose Memorial was constructed by the Works Progress Administration. The columns from the old post office building were added to the memorial.

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Column 1**

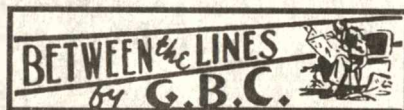
*Daily Clintonian*

*Mon. Apr. 11, 2005*





Memorial plaque



(concluded from Page 1)

al. Funds were provided by B.O.W.A. (Banks of the Wabash Association).

There are three panels of "etched" history at the Chauncey Rose Memorial — noting his extensive philanthropy.

In 1868, Rose contributed \$500 and later \$90,000 to the "Ladies Aid Society," organized to help needy families of soldiers.

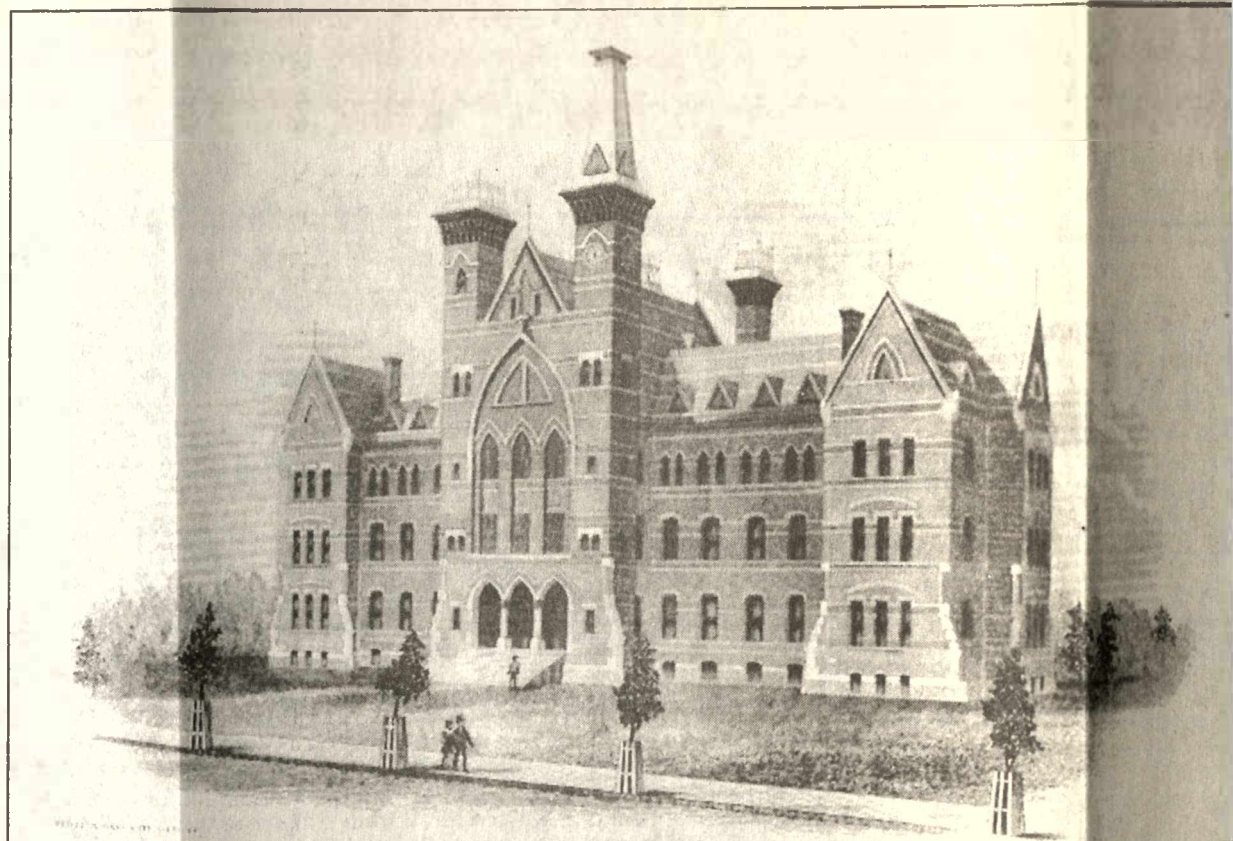
In 1874, Rose contributed \$150,000 to establish the Chauncey Rose Orphan's Home. (The first child wasn't received until 1874.) The home was located at Seventh and Chestnut streets, the site of Indiana State University Laboratory School.

There is a brief biography of Chauncey Rose in the middle panel. He was born in Wethersfield, Conn., December 24, 1794. He died August 13, 1877. There is this interesting note: "As there were only two cabins in the Prairie City, at that time, he stayed at nearby Fort Harrison. In 1819 he moved to Parke County to engage in the milling business but returned to Terre Haute in 1825." (The Prairie City was Terre Haute.)

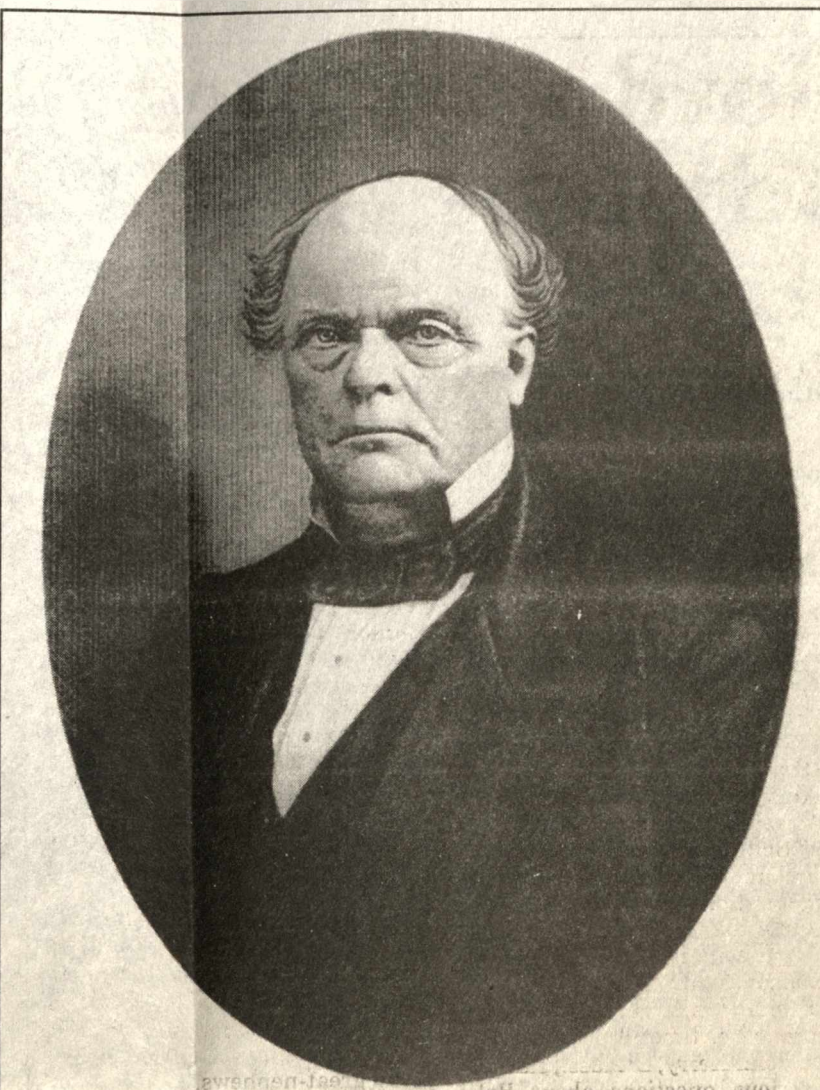
Isaac R. Strouse, (1916), writes the following: "Chauncey Rose was at Ft. Harrison in 1818 when Capt. Andrew Brooks, Indian agent and interpreter, who had frequently visited Parke County and noted its many natural advantages ... told Rose, then a young man of 23, about a fine site on the Big Raccoon. They formed a partnership with Moses Robbins ... in the spring of 1819, they began work on their mill and distillery at Old Roseville."

In 1895, the Rose Dispensary was established to provide medical care and medical supplies to worthy, deserving people in Terre Haute.

In 1874, the Rose Polytechnic Institute was established to educate and technically train men. It was first located on 10 acres of land at 13th and Locust streets. In 1922, the college was moved to the present location — on 123 acres of land donated by Anton and Herman Hulman. Today the institution is known as Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, located at 5500 Wabash Avenue.



Rose Polytechnic Institute



Chauncey Rose



Paul Dresser H



# BETWEEN <sup>the</sup> LINES

by G.B.C.



## **FAIRBANKS PARK: THE OBSCURE, THE NOTEWORTHY**

*by Russell L. Hamm*

Fairbanks Park is scenic. People come to eat lunch, to walk their dog, or to read the newspaper. It is a pleasant "get-a-way" place close to the Vigo County Courthouse and close to the Indiana State University Campus. The Fairbanks Park site lies between Oak street on the north, Farrington street on the south, South First street on the east and the Wabash River on the west.

A casual visitor may miss the

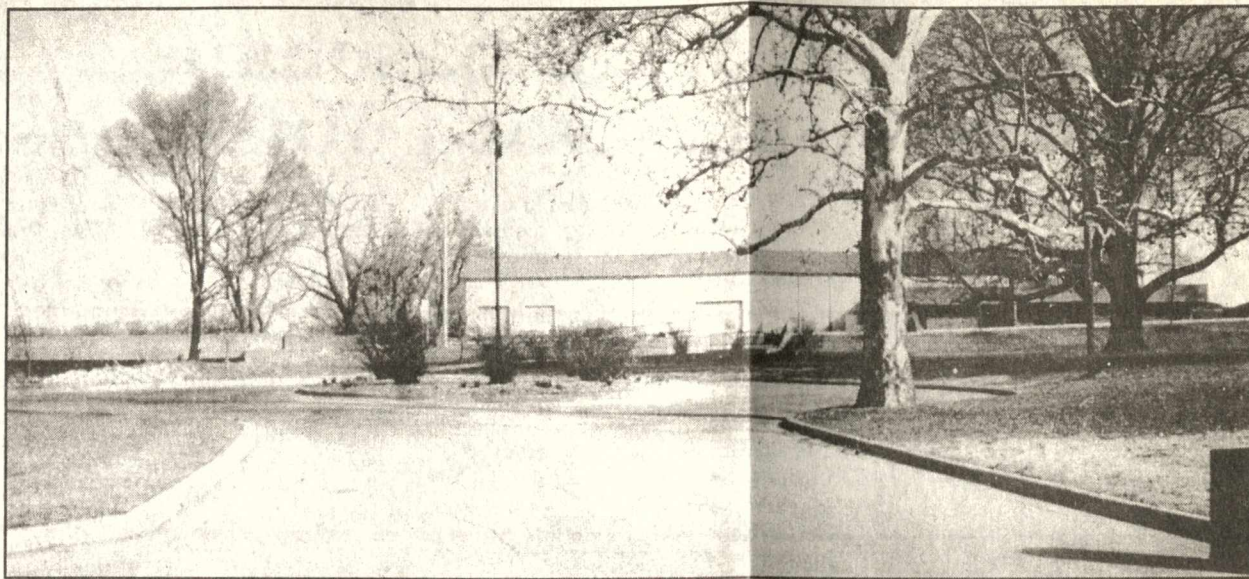
sister city friendship trees on either side of the fountain — from Odessa and Jajimi, Japan. The Odessa tree, especially, is a thing of beauty even in winter.

There is a gazebo, just south of the Ben Blumburg Pavilion, (1987). Weddings are held here.

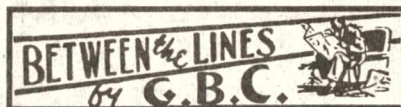
There are two fishing piers — a floating pontoon dock, and a boat launch facility. (The Ralph Tucker Memorial Boat Dock was dedicated May, 1992 — in honor of the five-term Democrat mayor of Terre Haute.)

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Column 1**





North end of Dresser Drive with U.S. 40 in background



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In the oral history of Terre Haute is the story of the Reliance and Reliable, (riverboats). In an interview with Jayne Lloyd, June 27, 1981, Mrs. Edris (Clyde) Stevenson Bennett reported: "I believe the last time I was on one of those boats was along about 1914. And they were quite a popular thing in the summer. You could take a nice boat ride up to Fort Harrison." She added: "Chris Stark ... played the piano on one of these boats ... they had a singer, Bessie Streiner Mayer."

Paul Nasser was interviewed by Francis Hughes, July 15, 1981. He said the boat didn't get back until about midnight. He noted there were dances and refreshments on the boats. (I was told that the boats were sometimes hooked together.)

Judy Calvert, June 6, 1984, *Macksville Gazette* wrote about the Banks of the Wabash Festival, an annual event, that began in 1974. Sponsorship of the event by the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department began in 1984 — and the name was changed to the Wabash Valley Festival. (This year the event is May 26-June 4.)

On September 24-25 is another large event at Fairbanks Park: Terre Haute Parks & Recreation Department's 18th Annual Culture, Arts & Cuisine Festival.

Rita Coleman-Alsop of the Terre Haute City Parks & Recreation Department listed several other events held at Fairbanks Park:

- April 29 - Arbor Day Celebration - Noon - 1:15 p.m.

- May 7 - Spring Thyme Herb Fair

- June 11 - Terre Haute Community Band - 7 p.m.

- June 25 - Terre Haute Community Band - 7 p.m.

- July 9 - Terre Haute Community Band - 7 p.m.

- August 6 - Terre Haute Community Band - 7 p.m.

- August 20 - Terre Haute Community Band - 7 p.m.

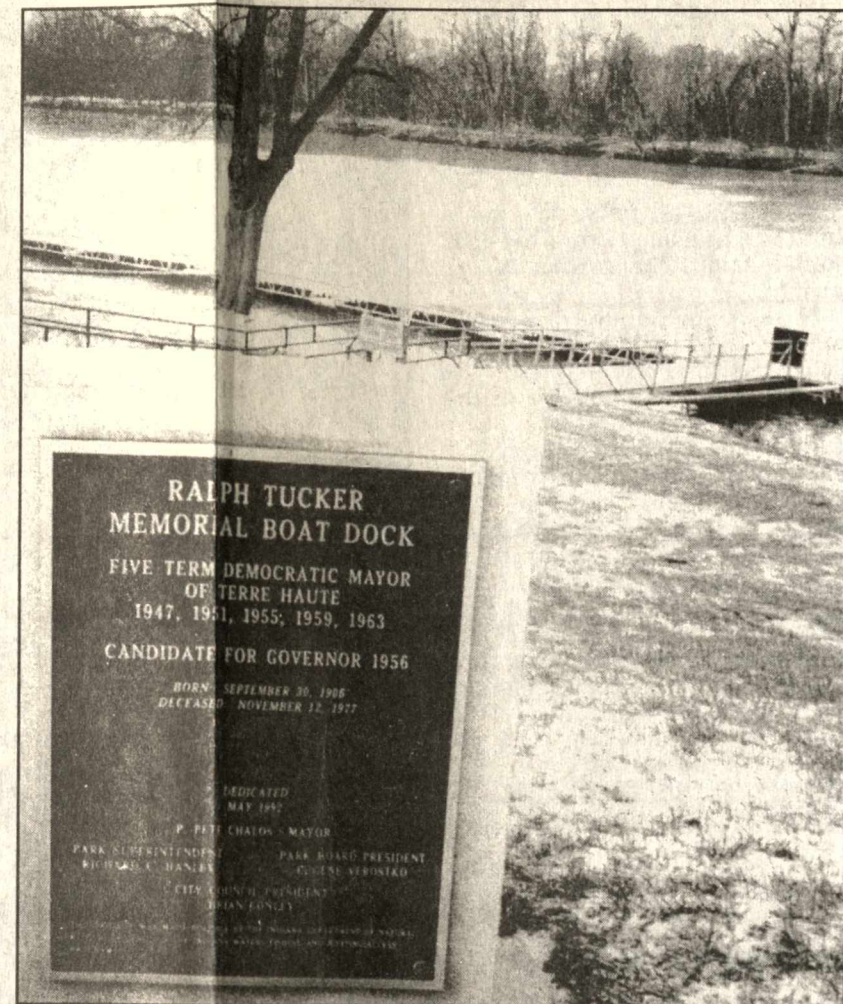
Rita Coleman-Alsop indicated other events occur at Fairbanks Park — car shows, motorcycle shows, the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra ... (more information can be obtained by phone 232-2727, or Room 208 City Hall. Greg Ruark is superintendent of Terre Haute City Parks.)



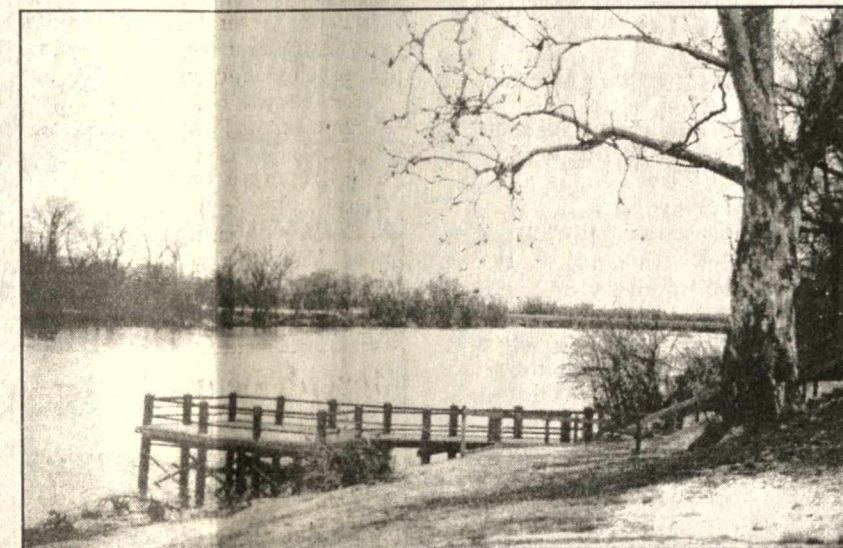
The Odessa Friendship Tree



Fairbanks Public Access Site



Tucker Memorial Boat Dock



Fishing pier on Wabash River



# BETWEEN<sup>the</sup> LINES

by G.B.C.



## FAIRBANKS PARK: THEN AND NOW by Russell L. Hamm

Once upon a time Fairbanks Park was a city dump.

Once upon a time, following World War II, metal Quonset huts were placed in the park as temporary housing for returning veterans. (Source: Judy Calvers, *Macksville Gazette*, June 6, 1984.)

Once there was a Paddlewheel Restaurant in the park. (Source Carolyn loops, *Tribune-Star*, April 22, 1973.) George Petit owned the restaurant, and he signed the lease on May 19, 1970. But the restau-

rant was moved to Third Street in a few years.

Once there was the Magnetic Mineral Springs Bathhouse. The bathhouse was just up the hill from the park. The bathhouse waters came from the sulfur spring and artesian well, down by the Wabash River. There is no longer a bathhouse. It burned down. The spring, too, no longer flows. Once there was a drinking fountain and people would come with containers and take the water home with them. (Source: John Halladay, *Tribune-*

Completed on Page 5  
Column 1





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Star, September 3, 1983.) The spring was located near the north entrance of the park.

Once there was a modest building near the Wabash River that was the Wabash Valley Boat Club headquarters. It was located to the west of the Fairbanks Park Public Swimming Pool. (Source: Sanborn Map Company, Volume 2, Terre Haute, 1955.) Motor boats plied the Wabash River and membership in the club was prized. The clubhouse was razed long ago after being damaged by a lightning strike. Writes Judy Calvert: "Fairbanks Park" was the site of the first municipal swimming pool in the city and was beautified by a sunken garden complete with a grotto shrine in the center! (Today the scenic Fairbanks Fountain is located on the site.) Dick Sutliff, *Tribune-Star*, July 21, 1968 wrote: "The pool opened in the 20's and was in operation about 15 years." Incidentally Sutliff also noted that the dock and boathouse along the Wabash River were in urgent need of repair.

Dresser Drive is the main traffic artery through the park. It was originally intended to encircle the entire City of Terre Haute in Boulevard fashion. The drive, however, is now confined to Fairbanks Park. The drive was constructed in the late 1930's.

The old saw: The only constant is change — fits Fairbanks Park. The new Girl Scout facility was opened March 12, 2005. Writes Nicole Mullins, *Tribune-Star*, March 13, 2005; "The new building gives the girls from 14 Illinois and Indiana counties a chance to come together as a group, something not possible in the old building." (Parke and Vermillion counties are among the 14 counties.) Mullins also noted that the original building opened in 1974. Writes Judy Calvert: "The Girl Scout Covered Bridge Council and the YMCA leased land in Fairbanks Park from the city to build their new headquarters in the early 1970's. The two buildings on the south edge of the park add to the beauty of the area and also provides access to the park for members of groups. The Wayne Meyers Softball Parke is also located on park property." Patrick Ralston, *Terre Haute Gazette*, January 23, 1985 noted: "In 1976 the YMCA constructed their new facility at the south end of the Park."

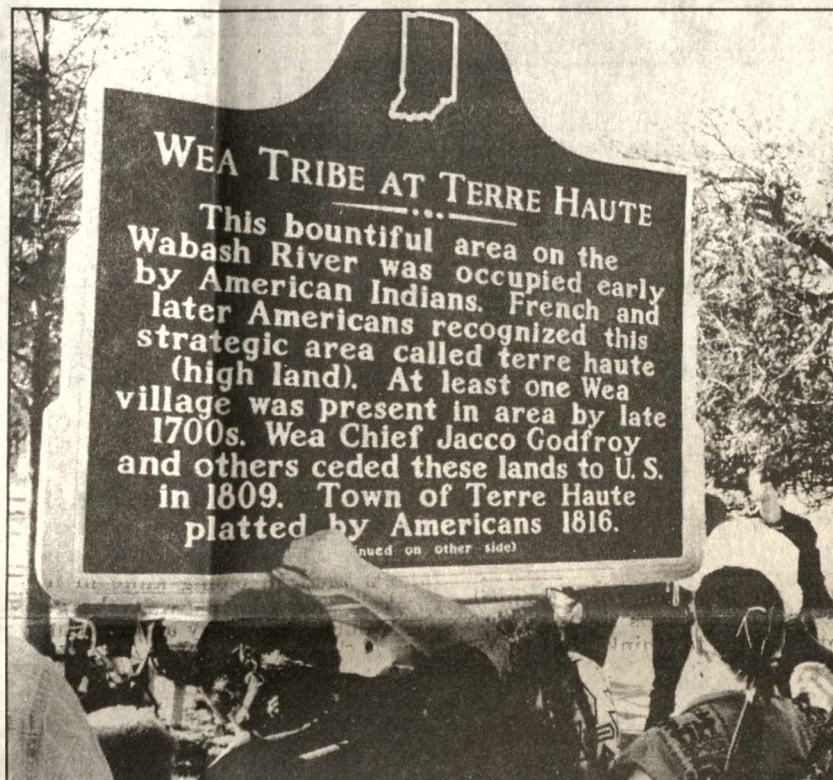
It was just last year that the Wea Tribe historical marker was dedicated in Fairbanks Park. The Indiana Historical Bureau and Native American Foundation of Western Indiana installed the marker. As the sign reads: "Most Wea were forced to move from Indiana. Descendants of Chief Jacco still live in Indiana." The Wea were a branch of the Miami Indians.



YWCA building



New Girl Scout building





# Proposed Site For Riverside Park

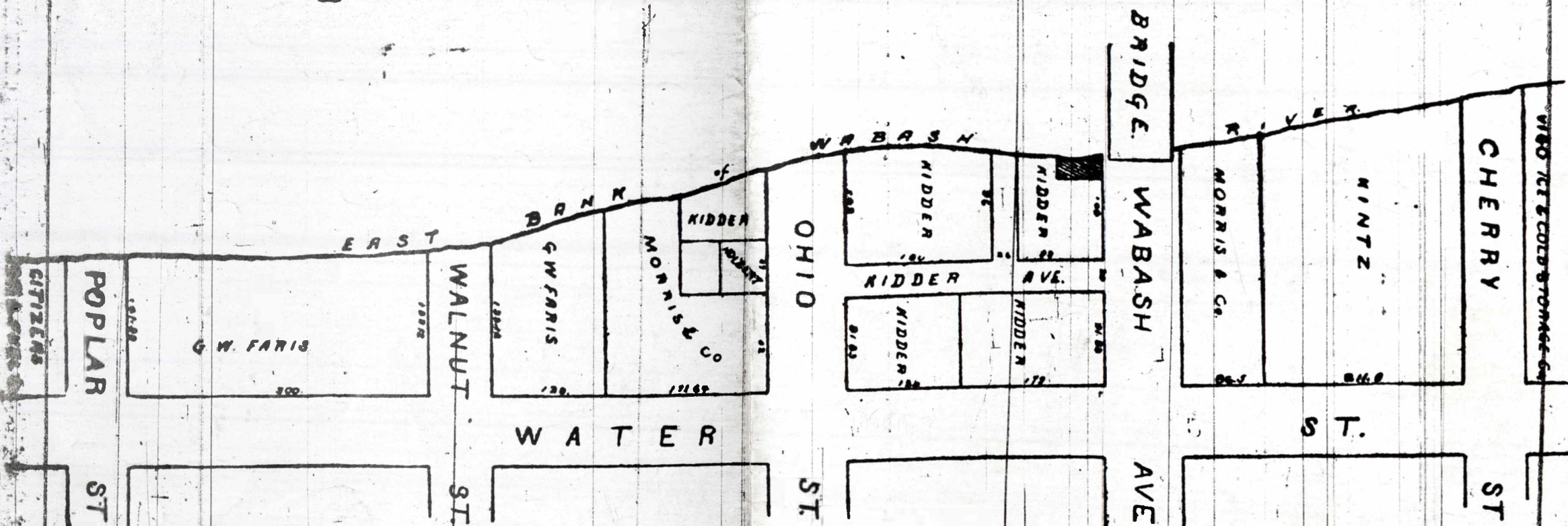


DIAGRAM SHOWING PROPERTY NEEDED IN MAKING PARK.

The Riverside Park movement has been before the people again for the past few days, and so many inquiries have been made concerning it, that it has been thought best to give a review of its growth and present status.

It began several years ago with the Civic League, a woman's organization. April 3, 1906, the league decided to ask the men's organization for civic committees to form an auxiliary board. The Young Business Men's Club, Commercial Club, Manufacturers' Club, Retail Merchants' Association, Maple Avenue Church club and Vigo County Medical Society responded promptly, and twenty-one of Terre Haute's representative men, with the league officers, have done what has been done for a park system for Terre Haute.

April 16th—Members of the auxiliary board went with the Civic League committee to Mayor Bidaman, who frankly said that he did not favor a Riverside Park.

October 1st—It was decided to confer with the new mayor, Mr. Lyons, and on October 9th seventeen men and women were cordially received in the board of public works room at the city hall.

The discussion was enthusiastic, but no definite plans were made. December 4, 1906, the Civic League and its friends, with some city officials as guests, met in the Commercial club rooms. Mr. Spencer Ball made the

the owners received offers for Commercial purposes.

Mr. Simonds, said the cost of making the park, had been greatly exaggerated. He thought (\$5,000.00) would be sufficient.

Friday morning the 15th Mr. Simonds, was taken to the bluffs across the river to Fort Harrison, and then by the tow-path to Lost Creek, and to Forest park. In the afternoon, the Riverside site was gone over again very carefully and at a 4 o'clock meeting with the Board of works, Mr. Simonds was asked to give a written recommendation for a Park system.

He said he would do it as soon as possible. His report came the following week. It should be read and discussed by every club and church organization in the city. And possibly the Board of Works could not do a better thing than have it printed for such distribution, as so many even thoughtful people do not read fine type reports in the newspapers. Such club discussions might do more for the children and the great number of people who do the work of the city, and yet can never leave it, than the usual discussion of the many questions of art literature, history, theology and ethics.

These discussions have not, as yet, made the great number of the intelligent people of the city wide enough awake for civic action. The real test after all of intelligence. Mr. Simonds' report is now on file with the board of works, and some of its sug-

Parker, its new president, announced that Mr. Kidder, the owner of the highest priced park tract, had expressed his willingness to sell at a very reasonable price in case it was to be used as a park site.

May 4 a representative of the league went with Mr. Kidder over the plat of his ground. The lots on Wabash avenue he valued at \$60 per foot, those on Water street at \$50, and on Kidder avenue at \$25 per front foot.

These valuations, with the new solid brick building near the bridge and the hundred foot square lot on the south side of Ohio, made a total of something over \$19,000, but Mr. Kidder said he felt that the site ought to be used for a park and that he would be willing to take \$15,000 for it all, reserving the mill and twenty feet south of it. This was \$7,000 less than the March price to the council committee. Mr. Faris said that he thought his price of \$15,000 had been reasonable from the first, that he had given it to Mr. Ball in the winter, but that if Mr. Kidder and the other owners would make concessions for park purposes he might find it consistent to lower his figures.

Mr. Forsyth, the Nelson Morris representative, said a member of the firm would be in the city at an early date prepared to give a definite price.

About twenty of the leading real estate men were asked their opinions of Mr. Kidder's and Mr. Faris' values, and with one exception they were decided in their statements that these

and located the park site. Then the board of works, by resolution, can appropriate and condemn property within the city and for five miles beyond its limits.

This resolution describing the property benefited or injured, must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks and must name a date not less than ten days after last publication, at which time the board will hear remonstrances against the appropriation.

The board shall consider these and take final action. The board then prepares a list of owners or holders of property injuriously or beneficially affected by such work and this is not confined to owners along line of proposed work but to all property injuriously or beneficially affected.

The board then awards damages and assesses benefits to each property on the list, and serves a written notice in which a day is named not earlier than ten days after service of notice to hear remonstrances with regard to amounts of awards or assessments.

After such remonstrances have been heard the board either sustains or modifies its awards or assessments and an aggrieved property owner may, within twenty days, appeal to the Circuit or Superior court. This appeal does not affect the appropriation of the property by the city, but only the amount of its awards or assessments.

The court on this appeal can reduce the amount of assessment or increase the award, but its judgment in the

when a number of citizens said that while they favored the site they would favor it more if it included some ground north of the bridge and it was learned that the Morris company would sell west of their office for the park, Mr. Rush gladly made a new plan.

One of Terre Haute's best informed and most conservative citizens said Thursday morning that the city should appropriate the unoccupied river front for a street and park where depth was possible one-half mile south of the bridge. That the unoccupied ground could be improved, that it would greatly increase the value of all property in that part of the city, benefit the city as a whole and be a step that would never be regretted. In the years to come as some of the industries in this district outgrew their locations and their equipment wore out they would want to move to larger locations and the city would then be able to buy at reasonable figures these sites and improve them.

Another citizen endorsed this opinion and added that the unused ground north of the bridge should be used in the same way, that a beautiful river front would mean much to the county, that industrial sites could be found in other directions. The Young Business Men's club did much for the city in bringing about Mr. Simonds' visit for it has made public sentiment in favor of a park.

In all the interviews with citizens this past week no one was found who



In the southern end of the park described is one of the most remarkable artesian wells in the entire country, now wasting constantly into the Wabash a large stream of highly medicinal water, which if properly exploited and envired, would prove as great a source of wealth to this community as do the Hot Springs and French Lick Springs to those communities.

The rapid growth of Terre Haute Motor Boat Club without a park proves to what great use for pleasure the river could be put if the front were made inviting.

In full view of this natural, but now wholly neglected, riverside park must pass over the Wabash wagon bridge, the Vandalia and Big Four bridges, all who cross the river, (except by the Chicago Southern bridge) between Clinton and Vincennes- in fact millions of persons, a rapidly increasing local and continental travel. Shall our river front delight or disgust these travelers?

The river front described is within easy walking distance of more than 20,000 of our present population.

In this immediate vicinity the County of Vigo has spent, or is now spending nearly a million of dollars as follows: For the magnificent Wabash River bridge \$271,000; for paving the West Terre Haute grade \$30,000; for the new jail \$125,000; for the Court House \$490,000. The County has done its part.

Now, what has the City of Terre Haute done to save and improve this section? It has wisely refused to vacate any of the streets running into it, thus preserving for the use of all the people and the needs of commerce all of the streets from Poplar to Elm.

It is removing the "hump" in the approach to the bridge in order to facilitate the enormous traffic across the bridge.

What else? Alas! Nothing. On the contrary the City has for many years turned its back on the river front, its most valuable natural asset. What was once and might be again a source of pride, of health and happiness to all of us, and the greatest of all advertisements with our guests and those who pass through the city has become a disgrace. or

We hope and believe the gross wrong the past will be righted by a progressive administration and an enlightened Council and that as much as possible of this front from the gas works on poplar street to the Water Works at Elm street may be soon acquired and adorned by the city.



Terre Haute, Indiana.  
Residence, 23 Gilbert Ave., New Phone 1280.  
and 121 S. Seventh St., New Phone 1096.  
Block, New Phone 1161.

Terre Haute, Indiana, April 11, 08.

To the General Committee on Park and Boulevard System  
For Terre Haute, Representing the Civic League, Young Business  
Men's Club, Commercial Club, Manufacturers' Club, Retail Mer-  
chants Association, Motor Boat Club, German Alliance, Sons of American  
Revolution and the City at Large:

Your sub committee of one member from each or-  
ganization and two at large appointed to plan and recommend a system of  
parks and boulevards for Terre Haute herewith respectfully report  
as follows:-

#### THE RIVERSIDE.

Along the east shore of the Wabash river between the south line of  
Poplar street and the north line of the T. H. Water Works, a distance of  
thirteen blocks, there rises from the river a high and beautiful bank  
extending from the river front to Water street, and flanked for the most  
of the distance by another elevation running east to First street. These  
thirteen blocks comprise nearly all the promontory along the river front  
within the city limits. A short distance south of Poplar street and also  
north of the water works, the river bends to the west leaving low lands  
along the eastern shore.

This river front which gives meaning to the expressive French name of  
our city-Terre (land) and Haute (high) is a natural park having wonderful  
possibilities.

It commands a view of a straight stretch and two beautiful bends in one  
of the noblest rivers in the United States, a river famed in song and story.

It includes perfect sites for modern quick-loading docks which will have  
great value when, as is certain to happen, the Wabash is improved by the

Parks and Recreation (N.V.)

Archives - 604



"The municipal swimming pool in Fairbanks Park  
was opened today in spite of the inclement weather..."

J.V. Tribune, Sat. June 12, 1926, p. 1  
DNL

## OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE SOON TO BE READY

Community Pool In Memorial Park  
Nears Completion, and Prospective Swimmers Are Anxious.

"Ready to swim by June 15, unless something unforeseen happens," was the word which went out from A. W. North, of the North-Raffin Construction company, builders of the new \$80,000 municipal swimming pool in Memorial park at the foot of Park street, when asked how the work on that structure was progressing. This will undoubtedly be good news to the lovers of that aquatic sport in Terre Haute, as the south side "swimmin' hole" is expected to be one of the most popular resorts of the city's recreationists during the coming summer.

The walls of the new swimming place and the promenade are practically complete, with the exception of a small space left to assist in putting in the floor of the pool, which has already been started.

When completed, the municipal pool will be one of the most completely equipped in the state of Indiana, as no pains have been spared by the park board and the builders to have it everything which a place of this kind can be.

The pool is an egg-shaped bowl, 192 feet by 128 feet, with a depth varying from three to nine feet, in order that both young and old, swimmers and near swimmers, may be accommodated. It will hold 591,000 gallons of water, which will be pumped in fresh from a deep-driven well every 24 hours, to insure a healthy and clean condition. Sterilizing apparatus to assist in this and a heating apparatus for use when necessary are also included in the plans.

Toilets, dressing rooms and rest rooms, shower baths, waiting rooms and locker rooms and in all 1,650 individual lockers constitute a part of the plans and equipment.

High dives, springing boards, chutes, bars, rings, trapeze and other athletic equipment is also to be installed. The outside promenade, which will encircle the pool, raised six feet off the ground level, is expected to be utilized to the utmost by spectators during the swimming season.

All in all, the new swimming pool is expected to fill a long-felt need for the city.

MUNICIPAL Swimming Pool  
MEMORIAL PARK (FAIRBANKS)

Community Affairs File

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



Parks + Recreation (Vigo 6)

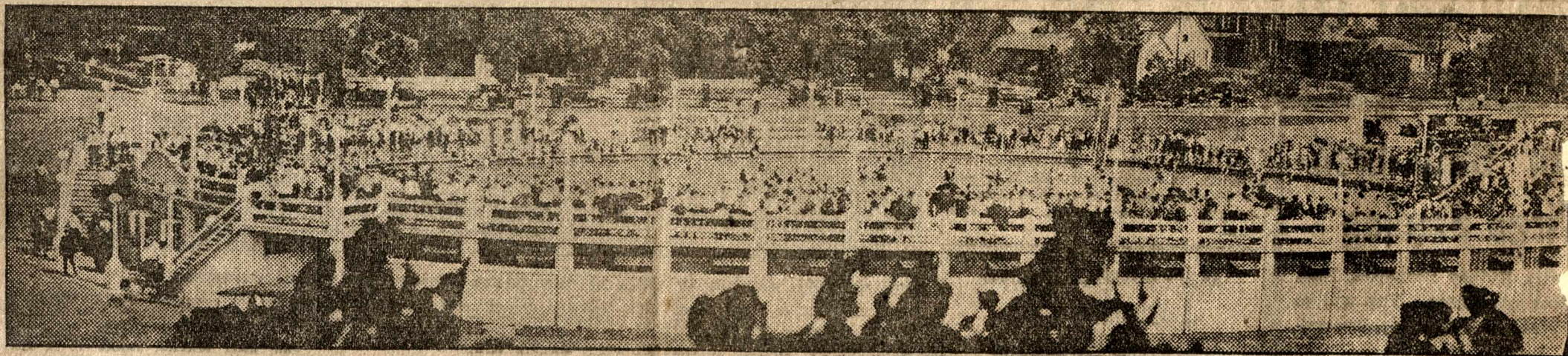
MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

MEMORIAL PARK (FAIRBANKS)

This pool was opened June 12, 1926. See Tribune  
for that date.

ONL

*Our Nifty Bath Tub Which Is Making Life Worth Living In Terre Haute During The Heated Term*



THIS IS THE BEST PICTURE OF TERRE HAUTE'S NEW MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL WHICH HAS YET BEEN PUBLISHED.

Terre Haute is enjoying her new \$68,000 bath tub. The new municipal swimming pool on favorable days has an average attendance of 1,200 people. Thursday evening there were 210 automobiles parked in Fairbanks park about the pool. The pool is enjoyed by young and old and is popularly declared to have been one of the best investments the city ever made. This view of the pool was made by C. W. Blintz, the architect, from an airy perch up in a tree, to the west of the pool near the Wabash river, during the recent hot spell.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Community Affairs File



## FAIRBANKS ONLY PARK BY RIVERSIDE

Area of 38 Acres Along River's  
Edge Converted Into a  
Beautiful Park.

*Trib-Star 6-28-42*

Within the 38 acres of attractive Fairbanks Park, Terre Haute's only riverside park, may be found the Henry Fairbanks memorial sunken gardens, the Chauncey Rose Memorial and bandstand, the large Municipal swimming pool and the Boat Club.

The park area was donated by the late Crawford and Edward P. Fairbanks and Mrs. Helen G. Fairbanks in honor of their deceased father, Henry Fairbanks. The park is situated about one mile south and west of the business district on the Wabash river and Dresser drive.

Fairbanks Park is well known for its outstanding beauty, particularly the Evard memorial fountain and the shelter house. The fountain has been constructed between the swimming pool, sunken gardens and the Chauncey Rose Memorial.

Before Fairbanks Park was converted into the popular area it is today, it was the site of a neglected dumping ground, and naturally required much attention and rejuvenation. Many improvements have been made to the park in recent years, including the building of a small playground, construction of a four-foot fill of dirt for the beach at the swimming pool, then building a concrete retaining wall and placing 12 inches of sand on top in order to form a sand beach. The park street entrance was rebuilt, and larger sewer inlets were installed to stop the storm of water from cutting the entrance as before.

### Pool Improved.

Also 750 feet of wire fence was installed around the pool, additional concrete was constructed for the fountain, 300 feet of eight-inch sewer pipe and 300 feet of one-inch water pipe for the fountain and shelter house were installed.

Other improvements included the installation of an electric time switch at the sunken gardens so that the lights may be left on all winter, erection of new signs bearing the name of the park, building of an archery range, repairing of horseshoe courts, using all new clay, planting of trees and shrubs, trimming of trees and the removal of stumps from the park.

## PARK IS ON BANKS OF THE WABASH

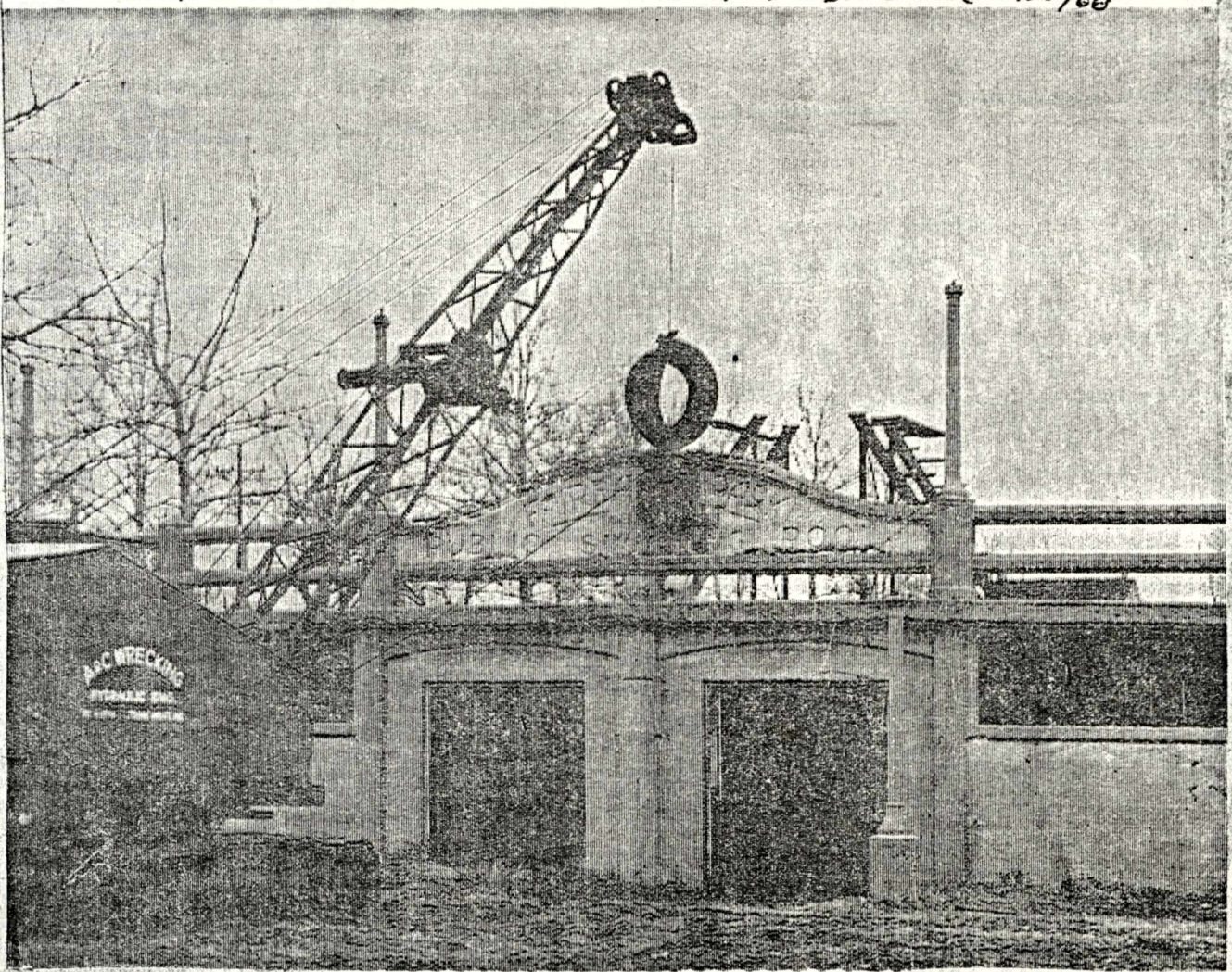
*Trib-Star 6-28-42*

Chauncey Rose Memorial park, situated on the banks of the Wabash river, is a spot of great scenic interest.

This area was established as a park site through the efforts of the Banks of the Wabash Association, an organization which has worked diligently to preserve spots of natural beauty and sites of historical interest in and about Terre Haute.

Sunday motorists and bicyclists, traveling along Dresser Drive, are awed by the beauty of the Chauncey Rose Memorial park. A natural amphitheater, beautiful in appearance, is a part of the park along Dresser Drive.





**OLE SWIMMIN' HOLE**—A giant metal ball smashes against the front of the old Fairbanks public swimming pool on S. 1st St. as wreckers move in to make the area into a scenic spot along Dresser Dr. The pool, a familiar oasis for children 30 years ago, has not been used for a pool for more than 20 years. The area is located directly to the northwest of Paul Dresser's restored birthplace.



FAIRBANKS PARK

T.H. HKS  
T.H. STAR 8/6/66

# Jaycees Offer Aid In Fairbanks Park

By JOE WAGNER

Fairbanks Park, acquired by the city in the 1920's and the only city park located geographically "On the Banks of the Wabash," may some day be one of the area's showplaces if a joint plan discussed Friday between members of the Terre Haute Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Terre Haute Park Board can be carried to its fulfillment.

At the request of Mayor Ralph Tucker, Jaycee President Richard Hahn and Ron Rich, vice president, met with the mayor and members of the Park Board in the board meeting room at City Hall Friday morning to hear plans

formulated for improvement of the westside park by the Jaycees, with help from the city.

Hahn told the Star Friday evening, "Many strangers come to Terre Haute and having heard of Paul Dresser's immortal "On the Banks of the Wabash," one of the first sights they want to see is the river. At the present time, the park does not leave a very good impression to visitors."

The Jaycee president said members of the organization feel it is an important and significant park in the city and some-

William R. White, president of the Terre Haute Park Board said, "The park has many possibilities and we are glad to have a civic organization offer assistance in making it one of the beauty spots of the city."

The board president said a request for money to build restrooms at the park is in the 1967 budget request that will come up for consideration in the near future.

Hahn said improvement of the park is only one item in a Jaycee master plan known as "Pride." Full details of the overall project will be announced at a later date according to Hahn.

+ + +

Suggested renovation of the park by the Jaycees includes a number of improvements.

Their plans call for repair and maintenance of the Chauncey Rose Memorial on the eastern rise of the park, overlooking the Wabash. The memorial was built about 1937 using pillars that came from the old post-office building.

About the same time of the memorial construction, sunken gardens were built at the park

and for several years were enjoyed by persons traveling Dresser Drive that borders the west side of the park. The organization suggests the garden be repaired and brought back to a thing of beauty for visitors and local citizens.

Boat docks and a clubhouse, once well-used are badly in need of repair or replacement. The city at the present time has only the one municipally operated launching facility for boaters.

Other suggested improvements include ovens, picnic tables and benches, playground equipment, new walks, a parking lot and landscaping of the area.

The Jaycees, according to Hahn, are not hoping to carry out the entire project by themselves, but he said "We are willing to pitch in and do our share on this project and others we have planned."

Attending the meeting Friday morning besides the mayor and Jaycee members were Park Board members Sid Levin, Ted Moore and Robert Bennet and representatives of the City Park Department.



# Board Plans Many Improvements At Fairbanks Park Along River

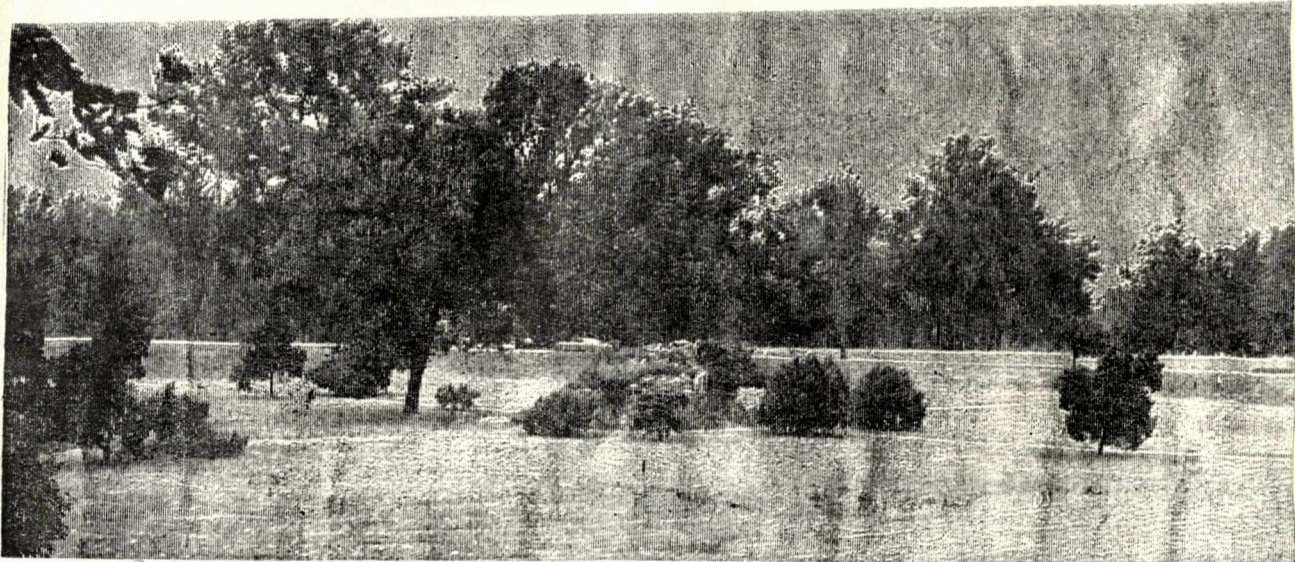
T.H.

PARKS

T.H. Trib-stak

7/21/68

FAIRBANKS



THE SUNKEN GARDEN IN FAIRBANKS PARK catches the eye of the motorist traveling along Dresser Drive. The Wabash Valley Boat Club building is barely seen in the dis-

tance, just to the left of the parked automobile.

Photo by Martin

By DICK SUTLIFF  
Tribune Staff Writer

The Terre Haute Board of Park Commissioners plans to consider a number of improvements over the next few years in placid Fairbanks Park and along scenic Dresser Drive. Sidney Levin, board president, said Saturday several projects are in the talking stage

and serious studies of a number of proposals will be undertaken later this year.

Already, the board has taken into consideration proposals by the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce and the Terre Haute Jaycees, as well as other suggestions.

None of the action so far taken has been of a positive nature,

Levin said, noting that Mayor Leland Larrison first wants to finish on-going improvement projects in the city's larger parks.

"We think we should do something with the natural amphitheater," Levin said, "so that we can have band concerts there along the river bank from time to time."

## Closest Area

And he noted that Fairbanks Park and Dresser Drive are the closest recreation areas to the married student housing units of Indiana State University, and the senior citizen housing.

Levin said the board agrees that the boat dock and boat house along the Wabash River bank are in need of urgent repairs and improvements.

He said efforts are being made to enlist federal aid in reconstructing the facilities, which are operated by the Wabash Valley Boat Club.

As to the possibility of a major face-lifting of the area to dovetail with the proposed civic center, Levin said he couldn't be sure about anything like that until the civic center plans become more concrete.

"Right now, nobody knows exactly what the civic center will consist of, so there's not a great deal the park board can do until we see something more definite than we have," he said.

There is a possibility that the boating facilities will be repaired under a joint venture with the boat club, and no federal aid would be necessary.

## May Move Some Trees

Levin also said the board may decide to remove some of the trees at Dobbs Memorial Park, and move them to Fairbanks Park in an effort to "screen some of the less pleasant-looking spots."

The river bank also may come in for its share of improvements, Levin said, and there's a possibility that shuffleboard courts may be constructed in the park.

"But right now, the emphasis is on the bigger parks, and after we get them in shape, then we will begin work on the intermediate parks, of which Fairbanks is one," Levin related.

The artesian well, which was not in operation for a while, is back in service, Levin reported, although health officials have indicated they would like to see it capped because the water gives off a chemical that pollutes the air.

However, Levin said, when the well was out of order, the park board received numerous complaints from people who like to use it for medicinal purposes.

(Artesian well water smells and tastes like rotten eggs.)

About 100 years ago, much of what is now the park area was used for sheep - grazing. A slaughter house and iron works, along with some homes, occupied parts of the park.

## Old Pool Razed

A few years ago, the abandoned swimming pool in the park was razed. The pool opened in the 20s, and was in operation about 15 years. Repairs became necessary; funds were not available, and the pool subsequently was shut down.

Most of the land which is now Fairbanks Park was given to the city by Crawford and Edward Fairbanks to be dedicated as a memorial to their father, Henry Fairbanks, mayor of Terre Haute in the 1870s.

Mayor Fairbanks, a Republican, was born in Brimfield, Mass., in 1815. At the age of 17, he set out for Boston, and became a gunsmith. He came west in 1835, and set up the first gunsmith shop in Terre Haute.

In 1858, he purchased a farm east of the city, sold it later, and moved back to town, first residing on S. 6th St. and latter building a new home on S. 3rd St.

## Served As Treasurer

In 1855, he was elected Vigo County treasurer, and served for one term. Later, he ran for the Indiana Legislature, but was beaten by five votes. After that, he was elected mayor to fill a vacancy created by the death of his predecessor.

Mr. Fairbanks died in 1877 at the age of 62.

At one time, there were a number of ambitious projects planned for Fairbanks Park, but not all reached fruition.

However, a large vertical structure — the Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza — stands tall in Fairbanks Park. It was erected under the auspices of the Banks of the Wabash Association, no longer in existence, to "perpetuate the memory of those, who by their generous material gifts, have enlarged the spiritual, educational, physical and recreational life of this community."

Mr. Rose was one of the community's early benefactors, and for whom Rose Polytechnic Institute and the Rose Dispensary Building, among others, were named.

Behind the eight marble columns that is the memorial stands the facade of the old post office, which was located where the present main post office is until it was torn down in the 30s.

Steps leading up to the me-

Continued On Page 11, Col. 1.



tive who composed the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash."

Dresser was born a short distance away, and his home, located in Fairbanks Park, is a tourist attraction operated by the Vigo County Historical Society.

The old part of the drive, which was almost a mile long, was purchased by the city for \$100,000. It was the first paved street in the entire city park system.

Originally, the plan was to make the drive encircle the city in boulevard fashion, but the project was never finished. However, there are still short streets on the south and east sides of the city bearing the Dresser name, and they were to have been part of the over-all system.

One of the most peaceful spots in the city is in the sunken garden in Fairbanks Park. Here, lovely trees and shrubbery abound, although keeping the grass cut has proved to be somewhat difficult, and this

tends to cloud the true beauty of the area.

At one time a covered bridge across the Wabash River was at the foot of Ohio St. The present bridge for U. S. 40 was built early in the century and the old wooden covered bridge was razed.

memorial add dignity and perspective to the memorial, although seldom does one find people wandering around the memorial itself.

#### Old Bandstand Unused

At the foot of the memorial, across Dresser Drive from the Wabash River, is the old bandstand, not used any more, but still capable of being utilized for such a purpose. Outdoor concerts were quite popular there at one time.

Dresser Drive, which winds in a southerly direction along the east bank of the Wabash, was named in memory of Paul Dresser, the Terre Haute na-



**PAUL DRESSER HOME**—This brick structure, in which the noted songwriter Paul Dresser was born, was moved to a spot in Fairbanks Park a few years ago by the Vigo County Historical Society. The house was at 318 Harding Ave. when Dresser lived in it.

Photo by Martin



or Leisure Hours—

T. & P. Parks

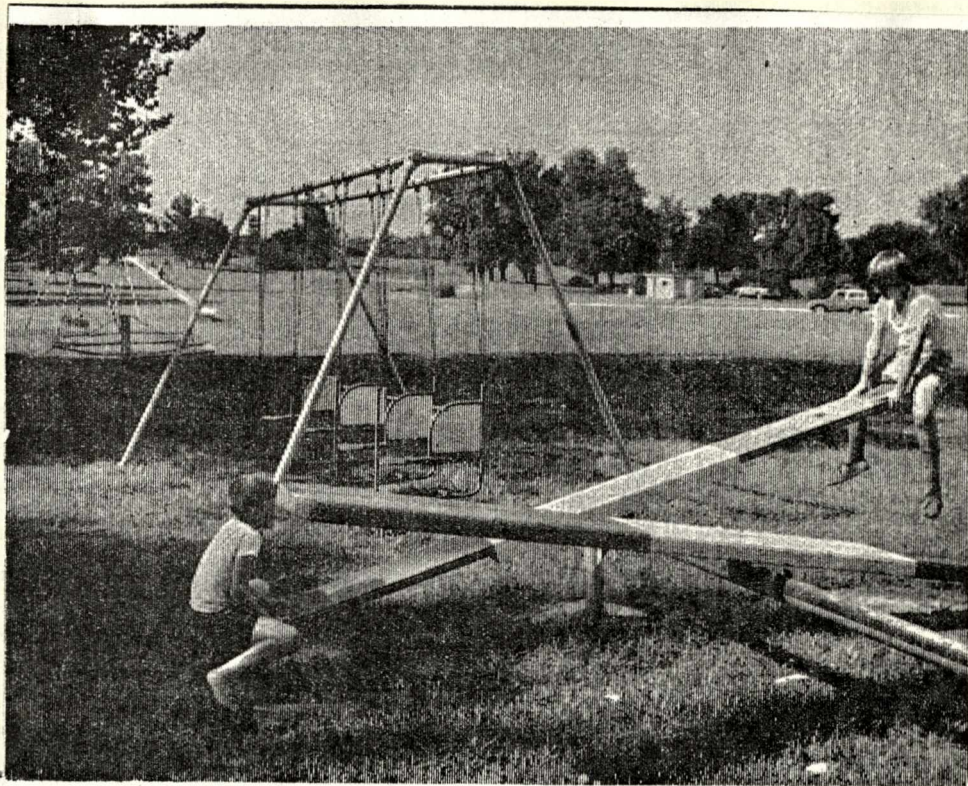
T. & P. Star

8-12-70

# Area Parks Afford Fun, Rest

FAIRBANKS

DEER



**UPS AND DOWNS AT FAIRBANKS PARK** — Mark Lawson and Erik Adams enjoy a ride on one of the teeter-totters at Fairbanks Park, while Brent Lawson is shown on the slide in the far background. The playground equipment was installed at the park this summer. (Photo by Kadel)



**ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH** — Art students from Indiana State University are shown above at Fairbanks Park as they sketch the U.S. 40 bridge over the Wabash River. Weeds and brush have been cleared along the east bank of the river from the bridge to the south end of the park. (Photo by Kadel)



Fairbanks Park, which was acquired by the city in the 1920's is the only city park that geographically is located "On the Banks of the Wabash."

It extends along the Wabash River from the U. S. 40 bridge south to the north property line of Commercial Solvents Corp., then east to Harding Avenue and north to the south line of property owned by the Terre Haute Gas Co.

It is the site of the Chauncey Rose Memorial that was built in 1937 using large pillars that came from the old postoffice building and of the Paul Dresser

Home which was relocated in the park several years ago.

+ + +

New playground equipment and park benches were placed in the park this summer.

Boys from the Youth Opportunity Corps have cleaned brush and weeds from along the river bank and otherwise have helped make the park one of Terre Haute's scenic attractions.

The park department at the present time maintains more than 700 acres of city park property.

the state agencies in seeking the review.

Last November the ICC allowed the railroad to drop trains 50 and 53, eliminating Penn Central passenger service between the two cities.

The agency said Penn Central did not operate the trains as a pair, but put them together in order to average losses between them.

Reexamination of the record

showed one train can be operated between the two cities without substantial financial loss and should be reinstated "in the public interest," the ICC said.



# Henry Fairbanks Riverfront Park Given New Life and Beautification

By NIKI LEE MAHONEY  
Tribune Staff Writer

After lying somewhat dormant, hibernating or sleeping, for many years, Henry Fairbanks Memorial Park, on Dresser Drive along the banks of the Wabash is being brought back to life, rejuvenated into what should be a popular recreation or relaxation area.

"I think this can be developed into one of the most beautiful parks in the area," Howard Harbaugh, city park superintendent, commented as he spread his arms over the 100 acres of land.

Among improvements planned or already completed by Harbaugh and his crew are a boat dock and boat house with lounge, a sunken garden, an ornamental pergola, playground equipment, resodding and clearing of cluttered sections.

But the members of the park department are not the only ones who have discovered the potential of the banks-of-the-Wabash park.

What could be more fitting for a river site than a full-size replica of an old paddle boat? And, just to make it practical as well as ornamental, why not make the boat into a restaurant and call it the Paddle Wheel? The Paddle Wheel opened its doors, or gangplank, Monday, May 10.

The city of Terre Haute receives five per cent of the gross from the brightly-painted restaurant for rental fee because it is on municipally-owned land. Mayor Leland Larrison said the money is earmarked for the park department, which will use the funds for further park improvements.

In the approximate center of Fairbanks Park, across from the boat house, is an old memorial to Henry Fairbanks built by his sons, Edward and Crawford, when they established the park in 1916.

Literally given new life, this area is becoming a sunken garden. Flowers are being planted along the four walks that lead into the center, a stone edifice about 15 feet tall which will be a rock and flower garden. This makes an ideal place to stroll or just sit and meditate on a lazy day or after a hard day's work.

Above the garden, to the east of it, is a dirt road which Harbaugh said will be cut off and resodded, affording more space for play area.

Playground equipment has already been set up at the east end of the park. Residents of the Indiana State University married students' housing are



A SUNKEN GARDEN is one of the new attractions of Fairbanks Park along the banks of the Wabash River. Planting petunias and other plants around the stone memorial in the center of the garden are park department employees (bottom) Robert Hay and Jimmy Smith. Howard "Jerry" Harbaugh, superintendent of the city parks, directs the improvement project and seems to approve. A campaign is being conducted by Harbaugh to make other changes in the 100-acre park.

in an especially good position to use the equipment.

To the west of the garden is the boat house, which is already being repainted. A newly-furnished lounge will give persons a place to wait as the caretaker raises their boats from the river. A caretaker will be constantly on duty to take boats up from the river and lower them down to it, free of charge.

Two boat docks are also planned for the river site. "If we get a lot of people interested in this area and boating on the Wabash, maybe we can have nicer boat docks," Harbaugh commented as he stood on the banks admiring the view, especially that looking south at the river's bend, where all one can see is the sun sparkling off the river and the trees along side it.

An open air pavilion has also been created in the park. Serving as a backdrop are the pillars from Terre Haute's orig-

inal post office, donated and preserved for posterity in 1937.

The Chauncey Rose Memorial, as the edifice is called, forms a natural entertainment center with the ground sloping and curving away from it. In the past, and perhaps the future, groups have used it as an open entertainment area with class.

Now the columns from the First Baptist Church at 6th and Walnut Sts. are also having a renaissance, becoming a decorative pergola. The late Ben Blumberg and his wife, Betty, bought the columns for approximately \$3,000 when the church was torn down and donated them to the park.

The one feature of Fairbanks Park that people often complain about is the artesian well, which gives off an odor slightly akin to no less than rotten eggs.

But, Harbaugh explained, surprisingly enough, some people believe they'll die if denied access to the mineral water. So the well remains, loved by some, repugnant to others.

Fairbanks Park, on the banks of the Wabash, used to have a covered bridge, a swimming pool and a band stand. Then it lay pretty much forgotten. But now it is regaining its right to take its place as one of Terre Haute's lovely parks and recreation areas.

FAIRBANKS  
MEMORIAL  
PARK  
1971



INDIANA ROOM

T.H. Park's 7-19-71  
Blaze Destroys  
Park Boat House  
T.H. Trib 7/19/71

INDIANA ROOM

The boat house at Fairbanks a patio there for Wabash River Park, which was recently re-modeled and given new siding, boaters, it was reported.

was burned about midnight Sunday, it was announced Monday. Pumpers 2 and 4 and assistant fire chief Walter L. Feller Jr. made the run, combatting the blaze from 12:04 a.m. to 1:05 a.m. The fire was attributed to lightning.

The \$1,500 building was completely destroyed by the fire. Because of the large cost to the city for repairing the boat house, it may be better to have

Meanwhile, during another thunderstorm Friday night, the newly received pump for the pool in Deming Park was struck by lightning. The pool had been closed for several days awaiting arrival of the pump. It was hoped, Larrison said, that it will be reopened in the next couple of days.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



Proposed Ordinance Would Permit—

## Liquor Sales in Local City Park

An ordinance to amend a section of the Municipal Code relating to public parks, which would exempt a tract of land located in Fairbanks Park from a city ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcohol in city parks, was among seven new ordinances introduced at the regular meeting of the Terre Haute Common Council at City Hall Wednesday night.

If approved, the change would permit the Paddle Wheel Restaurant to sell alcoholic beverages. The restaurant, which is located on ground owned by the Park Department, is operated under a lease agreement with

the city to pay five per cent of the gross to the city. The money is earmarked for the Park Department.

This ordinance, General Ordinance No. 5, 1971, amends section 917.03 of the Chapter of the Municipal Code relating to rules and regulations governing property damage, use of firearms, etc. in public parks.

It would be amended by adding a sentence which excludes a section of Fairbanks Park from "the terms of this ordinance pertaining to intoxicating liquor."

Along with a new appropriation ordinance to transfer \$180,000 for the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, and several rezoning ordinances, General Ordinance No. 5 is expected to be considered as old business at the regular August meeting of the council. New ordinances introduced Wednesday night were all referred to the appro-

Continued On Page 14, Col. 2.

## Liquor Sales

Continued From Page One.

appropriate council committees for study and recommendations.

### Ennis Presides

Council president William J. Ennis presided at the meeting. Only Councilman Leonard Kirchner was absent.

Christian Eugene Trummel, newly appointed second district city councilman, took the oath of office Wednesday night in the opening minutes of the session.

The oath was administered by City Clerk L. Schumann Hunter. Trummel, 45, who resides at 37 Ferndale Drive, replaces John Napier, who resigned in June, because he moved to St. Louis, Mo. The term will expire at the end of 1971.

Trummel, a graduate of the University of Illinois, is a CPA with the Terre Haute firm of Sackrider, Holler, Trummel and Muench. He has served as finance chairman for the Vigo County Republican Central Committee and was a delegate to the Republican State Convention in 1970.

Trummel and his wife, Janie, have two children, Chris, 16, who will attend Terre Haute South Vigo High School this fall, and Sarah, 9, a pupil at Thornton Elementary School.

The council unanimously approved ordinances totaling \$154,000 during the meeting. One provides \$140,000 from the city's cumulative capital improvement fund for the Fruitridge Avenue Improvement project to offset a deficit created by the failure of the bankrupt Penn Central Transportation Co. to pay its share of the project costs.

Penn Central originally agreed to pay \$140,000 of the construction costs for a planned overpass, but then refused to meet the obligation when it began experiencing financial difficulties.

### Funds Transferred

Other appropriation ordinances permitted the transfer of \$12,000 from the general fund to the Board of Public Works and Safety for business expenses and \$2,000 from the general fund to the legal department.

Several zoning ordinances were on the agenda.

The council voted to postpone Special Ordinances No. 32 and 33 until next month. No. 32 would rezone property located at 100 N. Fruitridge Ave., from R-1 single family dwellings to R-3, general residential.

Special Ordinance No. 33 sparked the only audience participation at the meeting.

The ordinance would rezone property at 2301 South 7th St., from R-1 residential to C-2 commercial. Herman L. Kaiser, 2306 S. 7th St., spoke against the measure. "We don't like the idea of commercial things moving into the area," he told the council.

William Rood, identified as a trustee of the Breden Memorial United Methodist Church, also spoke against the proposed zoning change, and Mrs. Nancy Tarbox, president of HELP, read a prepared statement from the group.

The statement said, in part, "HELP feels strongly that spot zoning in stable well-kept neighborhoods is a disservice to this whole community, where good housing in attractive middle-income neighborhoods is at such a premium."

City Controller Carl Price informed the council that a preliminary city budget for 1972 had been prepared. Lawrence R. Jones, chairman of the council's Finance Committee, set a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to consider the budget at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 28.

The next regular meeting of the council is Wednesday, Aug. 18.



# Request for Paddle Wheel Liquor Will Be Withdrawn

Mayor Leland Larrison said Monday that he will request an ordinance presently before the City Council, which would allow the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Paddle Wheel Restaurant, to be withdrawn.

Larrison made his comments about the ordinance being withdrawn as well as a number of other topics including the continuation of his news briefing during his weekly press conference at City Hall.

The mayor said he made his

decision after several complaints from citizens. The restaurant is on park department property along the riverfront in Fairbanks Park.

The ordinance had been presented to the nine-member council during a meeting July 21. The ordinance called for an amendment to the city's Municipal Code which states that no alcoholic beverages will be used, consumed or sold on park department property. The restaurant is presently being op-

erated under a lease agreement with the city, which receives five per cent of the gross receipts.

Mayor Larrison had said last week during his news conference that he might discontinue them because some news media were allowing equal time to his opponents. The mayor said Monday that he will continue the press briefings at least for awhile.

On the topic of the improvement project for North Fruitridge Ave., Larrison said he felt that word from the Economic Development Administration would come sometime this week. The city has requested additional funds from EDA for the improvement project.

Larrison said the city has not as yet heard of a decision about a proposed water increase. The Terre Haute Water Works several months ago petitioned for a 31.6 increase. The city, Larrison said, has voiced opposition to the increase.

When questioned about county office holders and county employees receiving salary hikes of \$500 and \$400 a year respectively the mayor said his administration will continue to keep salary hikes at a minimum.

When questioned about the traffic congestion at U.S. 41 (3rd St.) and I-70 becoming worse with future development Larrison said that problem lies with the state and not with the city.

On a related traffic matter, the mayor said there will be

problems around the new south and new north high schools. The south school, Larrison said is in the county. The north school is in the city and should be aided with the construction of the proposed Fruitridge Ave. project and the widening of Fruitridge Ave. to four lanes, Larrison said.

Still on another traffic question the mayor said that work on the proposed circular drive for the intersection of 25th and Ohio Sts., should begin soon. The mayor said that material for the project has been ordered and should be arriving any day.

In discussing the 1972 proposed civil city tax rate Larrison said he was confident that the rate will be set at \$3.75 or below per 100 of assessed valuation. The proposed rate is now \$3.79 or 27-cents higher than the 1971 civil city tax rate.

# Council May Let Beverage Bill For Park Die

City Council President William Ennis is expected to withdraw an ordinance he sponsored that would permit the sale of alcoholic beverages on Terre Haute Park Department property when the City Council meets in regular session at City Hall Wednesday night.

Ennis' proposal would have permitted the sale of alcohol at the Paddle Wheel Restaurant, located along Dresser Drive on Terre Haute Park Department property.

Terre Haute Mayor Leland Larrison publicly criticized the proposal earlier this month, saying he would ask Councilman Ennis to withdraw the ordinance, now scheduled for final reading Wednesday.

Also up for final reading Wednesday is an appropriation ordinance to transfer \$180,000 from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund to the Street Department Budget for services contractual and materials.

City Controller Carl Price said most of the \$180,000 would be earmarked for street repairs and maintenance.

Also expected to receive final action at the meeting are several rezoning ordinances, including an ordinance to rezone the Garfield High School property, and an ordinance to rezone property at South Eighth Street and Spang Avenue to M-1 light industry.



Thursday, rain and cold Friday  
highs in the 40s Thursday, upper  
20s to mid 40s Friday and in the  
30s Saturday. Lows in 30s  
throughout the period.

ILLINOIS — Thursday cloudy,  
chance of rain north, lows 30s,  
highs 40s north to 50s south. Fri-  
day cloudy, the lows upper 20s  
to upper 30s, highs 30s to 40s  
north and low 40s to low 50s  
south. Saturday partly cloudy,  
lows low 20s to low 30s, 30s north  
and 40s south.

MANILA (AP) — Moslem  
dissidents reportedly shot down  
a Philippine air force C47 with  
a crew of seven during fighting  
on Christmas Eve in "an in-  
creasingly tense situation" in  
southern Sulu province, the  
Philippine military said today.

The report, which said the  
fate of the seven men was still  
unknown, came as military au-  
thorities reported continued  
fighting between the military  
and Moslem dissidents, numer-

ous attacks on military units by  
armed Moslem bands, growing  
casualty lists on both sides and  
an increasing refugee problem  
in the combat areas.

President Ferdinand E. Mar-  
cos said in a statement he had  
evidence that "foreign trained  
troops" were fighting on the  
Moslem side, but did not elabo-  
rate.

A military spokesman said at  
least 46 Philippine soldiers  
have been killed in the fighting  
since September. This figure  
did not include the missing air-  
men.

ports reaching Manila from the  
south gave much higher figures.  
The Daily Express, quoting a  
report by Defense Secretary  
Juan Ponce Enrile, said there  
were a half a million refugees  
in the areas of Mindanao island  
where the fighting has been go-  
ing on.

There have been clashes in  
recent years between Moslems  
and Christian settlers moving  
into their lands. Fighting be-  
tween Moslem bands and the  
armed forces in the southern  
Philippines has been going on  
sporadically since Marcos de-  
clared martial law Sept. 22 and  
began disarming private ar-  
mies and rounding up firearms.  
The Moslems have generally  
refused to surrender their arms  
to the predominantly Christian  
military.

# Truman Was Healthy Man

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) — Harry S. Truman was 80 years old and beginning to show his age when he finally agreed to quit driving his own car.

By then, his famous brisk walk had slowed considerably; his memory was no longer as sharp, and he wasn't as eager as before to get out and see people.

Mrs. Truman and friends of the former president had long been worried about his driving when, not long after his 80th birthday (in 1964), he side-swiped a car, overshot his garage drive and hit a stone wall in the back yard.

He agreed then to let Lt. Mike Westwood of the Independence Police Department do all his driving. Lt. Westwood, who had been assigned to Truman on a part-time basis since his return from the White House, then became the full-time chauffeur.

Truman had remarkably good health during his lifetime. He often referred to the presidency as a "man-killing job," but entered the hospital only once while he held the office.

That was toward the end of his term, in July 1952, while he was recovering from a mild virus infection. He remained three days in Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, then was pronounced in excellent shape.

On returning to Independence the following year, Truman kept to his regimen of arising early and taking long, brisk walks in the deserted streets.

In the summer of 1954, while attending a performance of "Call Me Madam" at Kansas City's outdoor Starlight Theater, Truman became ill with what first was called acute indigestion.

The next night his physician took him to Research Hospital in Kansas City. The plucky former president refused to ride in an ambulance despite considerable pain, saying, "I don't want all that commotion."

Two and one-half hours later he was wheeled into surgery that lasted nearly three hours. The gall bladder was gang-

quets in Kansas City and Independence and two in Washington.

In March 1964, Truman and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson represented the president in Greece at the funeral of King Paul. For months thereafter, Truman canceled scheduled appearances, pleading ill health.

On Oct. 13, 1964, soon after he had been driven home, Truman tripped over a rug in the bathroom of his home, hitting his head against the tub.

A maid found him, semi-conscious, and called police. He was taken to Research Hospital where he was found to have broken two left ribs. He also had a cut over his right eye that required 11 stitches to close.

The night of Feb. 20, 1969 Truman was admitted to a testinal influenza caused by a virus. Although the then 84-year-old patient argued he was ready to go home after two days, his doctors kept him five days and gave him his first complete physical examination in nearly three years.

Truman was admitted to Research Hospital Dec. 5, 1972, with pulmonary congestion.

Truman once confided his two-part formula for longevity:

"1. Choose the right grandparents. I did. I come from a long-lived family.

"2. Keep those veins in the legs functioning by taking brisk walks, preferably at dawn. Doctors will tell you that otherwise the veins get clogged."

Why, he was asked, did he carry a cane?

Truman explained that the cane was to help him uphill on his dawn patrols and to bop on the head any reporter who asked silly questions.

LICH  
pecial) —  
a Delich,  
who died  
2 p.m.  
ranovich  
e Rev. J.  
Rev. Ted  
trial will  
rial Park,  
may call.

HILLER  
pecial) —  
E. Al-  
who died  
10 a.m.  
Renschler  
point.

## U.S. Deaths

Continued From Page One.

what smaller that in other years, probably because visiting rules were liberalized this year. Since June West Ber

## Fairbanks Park Plans Are Discussed

Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton and members of the City's Park Board met informally Tuesday morning with representatives of the Covered Bridge Girl Scout Council and the Young Women's Christian Association to discuss final details of a lease agreement at Fairbanks Park.

Official action is expected to be taken when the Park Board meets in regular session next Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m. The YWCA has already received approval from the Board of the Girl Scout Council to sub-lease a portion of the approximately 6.2 acres on which a new headquarters will be built.

Plans for the Covered Bridge headquarters at the Fairbanks site were announced last April and are proceeding as scheduled for completion in 1973. The Park Board last year approved a 99-year lease at \$1 per year with the Girl Scouts for the site.

The YWCA plans to construct a building of design and location similar to that of the proposed Girl Scout headquarters, and seeks to sublease a portion of the north part of the site, bounded on the north by Farrington St., on the south by Commercial Solvents, on the east by the ball park and the west by the Wabash River.

Sketches and a site plan were submitted by the YWCA to the Park Board several weeks ago. Mayor Brighton indicated the city attorney would be asked to check over all agreements on the site-leasing to the two organizations before the Park Board gives its official approval next week.

## AUTO CRASHES LEAVE TWO HURT

Mark Thelen, 22, 226 S. 13½ St., was admitted to Union Hospital about 12:15 a.m. Tuesday following a one-car accident in the alley south of Wabash Ave. between 11th and 12th Sts. He is listed in satis-

## Two Missing From Prison

Area law officers are searching for two inmates of the Terre Haute U.S. Penitentiary after they walked away from the prison honor farm Monday night.

James Weldon Lewellyng, 49; white male, 5'10", 164 lbs., with blue eyes and brown hair and tattoos on both arms was missed at the midnight check. He is serving a four-year term for interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle.

Also missing is James W. Bruce, 40, white male, 5'9", 145 lbs., with blue eyes and thinning blond hair and tattoos on both forearms. He was missed at 9 p.m. and is serving a two and a half year sentence for vehicle theft.

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Community Affairs File

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Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Community Affairs File

# Rosy Future for Fairbanks Park

Is APR 22 1973

By CAROLYN TOOPS

Tribune Staff Writer

Construction of new facilities for the Covered Bridge Girl Scout Council headquarters and a new building for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) can be the impetus to spur local efforts to restore, beautify and further develop the city's Fairbanks Park, civic and governmental leaders are convinced.

Enthusiasm appears to be high for the park's future prospects, with several possibilities being explored.

Beautification and renovation of Fairbanks Park will be included in the city Department of Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed in 1972, according to Pat Dougherty, superintendent.

Plans and specifications are being prepared, along with an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funding for the park beautification, Dougherty said.

John Sheehan, planner with the West Central Indiana

Economic Development District, explained that the funds would be requested for "passive works," such as landscaping, paving, etc. to make it more attractive open space and tie it in to downtown improvements. One of the assets, proximity to the city's main business district and the new "Y" intersection, makes it a "natural" for a parade assembly area, and an outdoor civic and cultural center.

Fairbanks Park has a natural sloping amphitheatre area, planned by the Dresser Association during an era when outdoor band concerts were very popular. However, the facilities have seldom been used for concerts. In recent years, the Terre Haute Youth Symphony has performed there occasionally, and several rock concerts were held last summer.

Scenic Dresser Drive winds through the park. Main entrances are from 1st Street at Oak and Farrington. Bicycle route along the river's edge is included in the master plan. Many of those bicycling in the park now find it easiest and best to cross 3rd St. at Farrington

where there is a traffic light.

Fairbanks Park is easily accessible on foot to residents of Indiana State University Married Student Housing and of Dreiser Square. A few picnic tables are available.

Three other attractions that bring people into the park are the Paddlewheel Restaurant, the softball games (the diamond and bleachers are at the extreme south end of the park, near the sites of the new YWCA and Girl Scout buildings) and the Paul Dresser Home, at 1st and Farrington Sts., which is operated by the Vigo County Historical Society.

Another interesting structure in the park is the Chauncey Rose Memorial, put there in the late 1930s. It is really the facade from the old post office building.

Columns from the old First Baptist Church were given to the Terre Haute Park Department several years ago by the late Ben Blumberg, to be used for a pergola designed by his wife, Dr. Betty Foster Blumberg. Mr. Blumberg also gave \$3,000 toward materials for a base for the pergola. However, sufficient funds to complete the

project are not yet available from the Park budget.

The pergola is to be located in the vicinity of the former boat club facility which was torn down several years ago after being damaged by a fire caused by lightning striking during a summer storm.

"Development of Fairbanks Park will benefit all residents as well as the Girl Scouts and YWCA," Mayor William J. Brighton said several months ago as the YWCA campaign to raise funds for the \$750,000 building got under way.

Construction of the Girl Scout headquarters is expected to begin within the next few weeks, according to Council officials.

The Girl Scout Council began discussions several years ago with the mayor and city Park Board on arrangements for leasing part of the park area, and the lease of approximately six acres for 99 years for \$1 per year was executed in September 1972.

The YWCA, in searching for a location for their new facility, received approval from the Girl Scout Council and the Park Board in January 1973 to share

the six-acre site. The "Y" fund drive is still in progress, and the date of completion will determine when construction of their new building will begin.

When the new "Y" is built, there will once again be a swimming pool in Fairbanks Park. Earlier, the city owned and operated a pool for about 20 years. It was located near where the Paul Dresser House now stands, and was torn down some years ago.

With the "Y" and the Girl Scouts, many more people will be coming into the park, with outside classes, more outdoor recreation (including more girls playing softball) and more interest in the park as a beauty spot.

Many cities have come to realize the tremendous asset that their rivers can bring to their communities. Terre Haute has been aware of this and from time to time individual efforts, usually sporadic, have been made to do something about it.

Conditions have become more favorable for concerted action, as many old structures have been removed through an urban renewal program. The "Y" - Girl Scout complex could be the south anchor of the area. The university has acquired land north of Wabash Avenue along the River.

The opportunity for Terre Haute to develop an outstanding riverside park is at hand, and 1973 might very well be a very good year for renaissance.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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TERRE HAUTE'S FAIRBANKS PARK on the Banks of the Wabash, defined by the dotted lines, has great potential—and the opportunity for development, beautification and restoration appears to be at hand. New facilities at the south end of the park will be built by the Covered Bridge Girl Scout Council for a headquarters building (G) and by the Young Women's Christian Association (Y) to replace their present facility. The 38-acre city park is bounded by 1st Street on the east, the Wabash River on the west, Oak Street on the north, with the south boundary unevenly extending from the 1200 block of 1st Street, at the Prox and Burget Co., and the rear of Commercial Solvents Corporation. Main park entrances are at Oak and Farrington Sts. The city's new "Y" intersection can be seen at the top of the photograph. The park is situated near Indiana State University's Married Student Housing and Dreiser Square public housing for the elderly. Other structures within the park are the Paddlewheel Restaurant, near river's edge, and the Paul Dresser Home, at 1st and Farrington Sts.

Aerial Photo by Martin.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File



# Columns to Be Carved By Sculptor for Park

T AUG 12 1974

*Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co)*

With Terre Haute the scene of an ancient artistic success story and Charlie Gibson the sculptor, may be repeated.

History books tell of an artist who reclaimed a piece of discarded stone, began chiseling and created a work of art appreciated by generations: the scavenger artist—Michelangelo, and his creation from discarded rock—"David."

The modern story is not unlike the Florentine legend. Much time, chiseling and artistic talent will be expended before the results can be appraised. Nevertheless, the contemporary tale is worthy of contemplation.

The Terre Haute First Baptist Church which stood at 6th and Walnut was doomed to demolition in 1970. The decorative entrance to the structure had been the scene of many wedding poses and the traditional background for graduation pictures of hundreds of Wiley High School students. It isn't hard to understand why many Terre Haute residents felt sad as they saw cranes and bulldozers move onto the church lot to begin destruction.

The late Ben Blumberg, well known Terre Haute businessman and philanthropist, had always admired the architecture of the Baptist Church and joined the mournful spectators lining the sidewalks to watch the wrecking crews. He became aware of the sentiment many people felt for the beauty of the church and decided to preserve whatever could be salvaged. Thus, Blumberg had the four gigantic columns, weighing an estimated 12 tons, moved to Fairbanks Park along the Wabash River.

The idea Blumberg and his wife, Betty, originally had when they made the columns a gift to the city, was to construct a pergola in the park where families could rest and view the south curve in the Wabash River.

The coming of winter, the death of Blumberg and the simple passing of time caused the columns to be forgotten. Several times throughout the past few years, a spark of remembrance would occur and new ideas for using the huge cylinders would be introduced.

One recommendation called for the columns to be erected with in a proposed new traffic circle. Another suggestion called for placement of the columns at the new Y-intersection at the bridge on U.S. 40.

Gibson, an artist-in-residence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, saw the enormous stones recently and became interested in their artistic potential. He gained the enthusiastic support of Mrs. Blumberg and approached the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department with a proposal for sculpting the columns. Agreement was reached. The artist has his stone, and the banks of the Wabash will soon boast artistic additions.

Following the decision, early morning sunshine found the artist, Charlie Gibson, in the park discussing his pleasure and plans with Mrs. Blumberg, also an artist, and Kenneth Coy, president of the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department. The trio expressed both

happiness and excitement over the project.

"I like to think of Charlie as the Michelangelo of Terre Haute," said Mrs. Blumberg. "he will work with this discarded but valuable stone and create an entirely new piece of art. I have always been interested in further beautifying the banks of the Wabash River. Perhaps that's why I am so eager to see the completed sculptures. I hope the columns will bring as much pleasure in Fairbanks Park as they did when they stood before the First Baptist Church."

It isn't often that an artist works in the public view. But size and weight make studio work an impossibility. So here's a chance for Terre Haute residents and visitors to witness the creative genius of an artist at work. Charlie will commence carving the columns in October and predicts several months for completion. The outcome may not be another "David," but, then again, it may.

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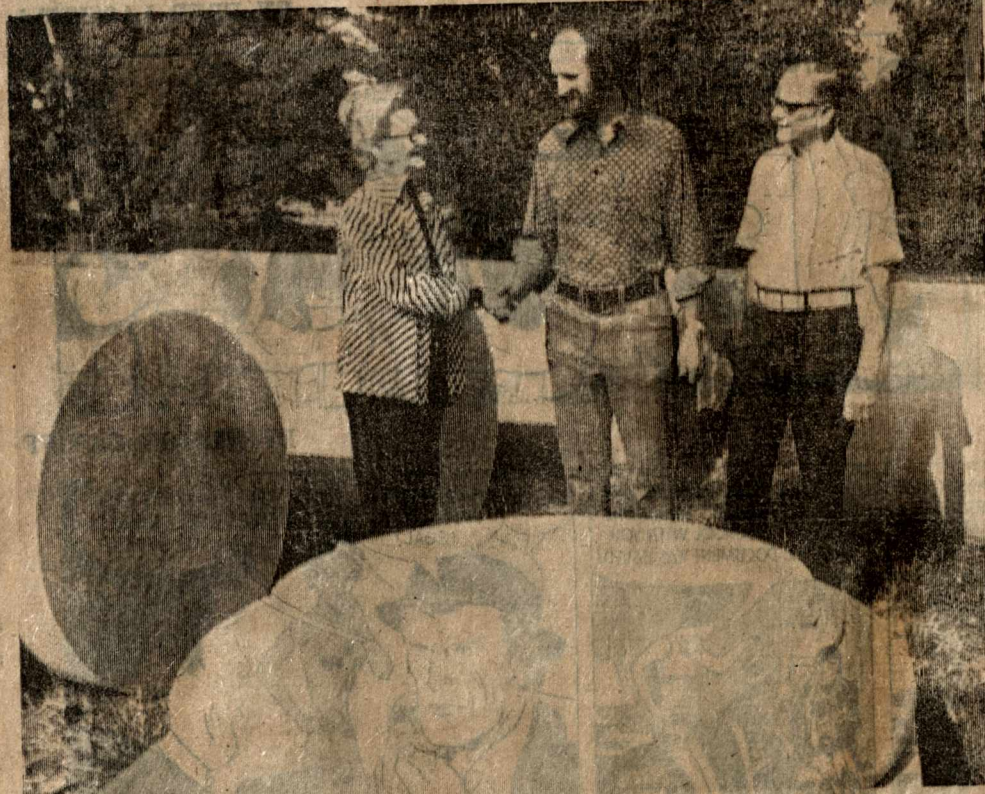
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FAIRBANKS  
HAR



Park & Recreation (Veg)

T AUG 12 1974



**ARTIST AT WORK**—Sculptor Charlie Gibson, center, has his work cut out for him when he begins sculpturing the massive columns from the Terre Haute First Baptist Church into new pieces of art in the city's Fairhanks Park. The columns were the gift of artist Dr. Betty Blumberg, left, and her late husband Ben Blumberg, and were originally intended to be used for a pergola in the park. Kenneth Coy, right, president of the city's Park and Recreation Board, is also enthusiastic about Gibson's plans to create new objects of beauty from the columns.

Photo by Bob Godfrey.

Community Affairs File



T JAN 11 1975

# Fairbanks Park To Be Beautified

Community Affairs File

By COLLEEN BLACKETER

Tribune Staff Writer

An ordinance for funding to renovate and beautify Fairbanks Park was introduced at the Terre Haute City Council meeting Thursday night.

The ordinance to appropriate \$44,125 for the Federal Revenue Sharing Trust Fund was placed in the finance committee of the City Council.

The money will be used for a five-part plan that will be joined

with a plan for use of a federal grant to obtain overall renovation and beautification of the Fairbanks Park, according to Mayor William J. Brighton.

The federal money is being applied for by the Park and Recreation Department in the form of a \$20,000 grant through the National Endowment of the Arts.

In the plan for the \$44,125 city appropriation, five steps will be followed, according to Park and Recreation Department Superintendent Patrick Dougherty.

As part of the first step, the facade at the top of the hill in Fairbanks Park will be restored to the original. The brick walls leading to it are to be removed. Trees and shrubs will be planted in that area.

Continued On Page 2, Col. 1.

# Fairbanks Park

Continued On Page 2, Col. 1.

Walkways in the sunken garden already existing in the park will be replaced with the original design for the second phase of the project.

For the third step, a mound in the center of the sunken garden will be removed and replaced with a reflection pool.

The whole sunken garden area is to be converted into a European style formal flower garden, according to the fourth step plans.

For the fifth step, a number of trees and shrubs will be planted in the sunken garden area and throughout the park.

The federal grant money of \$20,000 from the National Endowment of the Arts, if received, will be part of a \$43,163.50 total project in another phase of the Fairbanks Park improvement, according to Mayor Brighton.

The project proposed is the carving of eight existing limestone columns into eight unique free form abstract sculptures. The work is to be done by Charles Gibson, artist in residence at St. Mary of the Woods College.

"This project could greatly enhance the esthetic quality of the Terre Haute area," according to the mayor.

Beside the \$20,000 from the grant in this portion of the project, \$23,163.50 will be provided by the city in matching funds.

The matching funds will be gained through several sources, according to Dougherty.

A pergola fund of \$3,000 given to the city by the late Benjamin Blumberg will provide part of the funds. Blumberg gave the city the money about five or six

Community Affairs File

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# Fairbanks Park Renovation, S. M. 1 1 1975 Beautification Planned By TH

By DOUG SANDHAGE  
Star Staff Writer

Phase one of a plan to renovate and beautify Fairbanks Park should be completed before the second annual Banks of the Wabash Festival, according to City Park Superintendent Pat Dougherty.

Work to be included in the \$44,125 project is a restoration of the facade at the top of the hill, development of a European style formal flower garden, and the planting of trees and shrubs throughout the 145-acre park.

However, the plan awaits city council approval. First reading of an appropriation for the pro-

ject was made at Thursday's council meeting. Second reading and possible passage will be Feb. 13.

The money for the project will come entirely from federal revenue sharing funds, said Dougherty.

In a letter addressed to Mayor William J. Brighton and the city council, Dougherty mentioned five specific projects that could be completed with the money.

+ + +

The first will be the restoration of the facade at the top of the hill overlooking the Wabash River. Dougherty told

The Star that the flooring and the covering for the facade will be repaired and restored to its original production. In addition, the brick wall adjoining the facade will be torn down and replaced with planted trees and shrubbery.

The second, third and fourth parts of the plan calls for work

See CITY PARKS  
On Page 9, Column 11

## City Parks

Continued From Page 1

In the sunken garden that is presently in the park.

Dougherty said that the walkways through the garden would be completely restored to their original shapes and sizes. In addition, the mound located in the center of the garden will be removed and replaced with a reflection pool.

Thirdly, the entire garden area will be converted into a European style formal flower garden. What is European style? "It will be all flowers, with only the centered reflection pool, a few benches and walkways to break it up," said Dougherty.

Planted on the perimeter of the garden will be evergreen and ornamental trees, such as dogwoods and flowering crabs.

The entire sunken garden will be watered through an underground pipe system that creates a permanent water table. Dougherty termed it a "Purr Wick" flowerbed. He added that the system will cut maintenance costs substantially and will result in a better flower crop.

The fifth part of the plan will be the planting of trees and shrubs throughout the park. Dougherty stated that many of the trees would be hardwoods, such as Ash.

+ + +

Dougherty explained that phase one of the Fairbanks plan is basically for its "visual enhancement. He explained that the view will be such that a person standing in the sunken garden will be able to look north, see the facade, and then the top of the county courthouse.

Phases two and three of the Fairbanks plan are still being formulated and will depend upon a number of factors, said Dougherty. He declined to name what the future plans are until such factors are cleared.

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FAIRBANKS PARK



The masterplan architect for the park's renovation is Dave Mobley. Mobley, a Terre Haute man, has a master's degree in park design from Indiana State University, said Dougherty.

Concerning other Fairbanks Park plans, Dougherty said that a sculptor will begin this summer in carving eight limestone columns in free form to be placed throughout the park.

Charley Gibson, a sculptor in residence at St. Mary's-of-the-Woods College, will be doing the work.

The cost for the sculpting will be \$27,000. Of that amount, \$20,000 will be coming from the National Endowment of the Arts, \$3,000 from a private contribution, and \$4,000 from the city park department.

Dougherty said that the sculpting project "would greatly enhance the esthetic quality of the Terre Haute area."

+ + +

Fairbanks Park is the birthplace of Paul Dresser, composer of Indiana's state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash."

His brother, Theodore Dreiser, was also born in the home that is restored in the park.

The park is also the site of the annual Banks of the Wabash Festival which last year attracted a crowd of 30,000 persons to see arts and crafts exhibitions, pop concerts, rock concerts and an historical drama depicting the early days of Terre Haute.

Concerning other park affairs, Dougherty said that a "purr wick" flower bed is presently being constructed at 19th Street and Ohio Boulevard. Completion of the bed should be by the end of next week, weather permitting, he added.





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Community Affairs File

## Fairbanks' new look

Sp APR 17 1976

*Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co)*

Spring brings the people back to the parks and Fairbanks Park adjacent to the Wabash River is no exception. Several changes greet visitors this season, and, according to park authorities, there will be more to come.

Following a master plan drawn up by local landscape expert Dave Mobley, the sunken gardens at Fairbanks Park have been reconstructed and will soon see flowers again for the first time in several years. Concrete and brick walkways, benches and a fountain have been constructed, replacing the old, crumbling walks and grotto.

Flower beds have been laid out, but Park Superintendent Pat Dougherty says flowers won't be planted until after the conclusion of the Banks of the Wabash Festival in early June.

While the sunken gardens have been renovated, other neglected areas of the park will have to wait awhile for improvements. The Chauncey Rose Memorial, located at the north edge of the park, is in sad condition, while the artesian well, located north on Dresser Drive, is usually accessible only with boots on.

However, Dougherty says the city council will be asked to appropriate money, possibly this year, to renovate the Rose Memorial by removing a portion of the walls and putting the rest of it back together again.



# The great copying controversy resolved?

*City Council (T.H.)* By Susan Crittenden and Cheryl Bowne

SP APR 17 1976

Last Wednesday morning Councilman Bill Jarvis submitted a resolution for Thursday night's City Council Agenda. The resolution, sought to protect the right of Citizens and news media to photocopy city documents. It was designated, "Resolution No. 13, 1976." Interestingly, the sign which for three weeks had denied the news media as well as the general public the right to photocopy public documents was removed the next morning Thursday from the Board of Works and Safety Office in City Hall.

Thus, when the council came to Jarvis' resolution, Thursday night, there was some pressure to strike it because the city had already changed its policy. However, Jarvis wanted the issue to become a matter of public record, because it is possible for the policy to again be changed.

Despite City Hall's "indulgence" in restoring the public's right to use the copying machines (incidentally provided by taxpayers' money), the price of copies has doubled. Interesting to note is that on Wednesday, the day before the sign was removed, a councilman paid 10 cents per page for material copied. On Thursday, the following day, The Spectator was charged 20 cents per copy (ISU charges five cents per page for photocopying, and the public library charges 10 cents).

City Hall's primary justification for its restriction was that media representatives were monopolizing the time of city workers. This justification was "driven home" to Spectator reporters, Thursday, when a city worker had to stop painting her fingernails in order to make several photocopies.

Council discussion on the resolution Thursday evening began with a motion supported primarily by Pete Lamb and Jack Neaderhiser to put the resolution in committee of the whole for a month's study.

Neaderhiser suggested that news representatives could read documents into their

recording machines. They could then, according to his suggestion, have stenographers type the tapes for an exact record. (A member of the audience at this point was heard to ask his neighbor if General Telephone provided such service for Neaderhiser. If so, he thought that probably helped account for his high telephone bill.)

Pete Chalos maintained that photocopies themselves could contain errors. This point of view, it seems, fails to recognize that if photo-copies do contain occasional errors, at least the press can prove the mistakes don't belong to them.

During the discussion there were a variety of councilmanic comments, including, "the duplicating machines are too busy," "it would be dangerous to take papers from one office to another," and "if you let us study this for a month, we might be able to provide you with coin-operated machines."

Councilman Chalos at this point remarked that he would like to take the personalities out and simplify the resolution. His changes came as an amendment to the original resolution and recorded the council as supporting citizens' access to any documents and their right to photocopies (when possible) at a reasonable cost.

The first vote came on a motion to place the resolution in committee. This action would have delayed any council decision for one month. Gene Trummel among others made a strong plea for "facing the issue tonight." By a five-to-four margin, the motion was defeated. Voting for postponement were Lenahan, Neaderhiser, Thomas, and Lamb. Voting against postponement and for consideration were Chalos, Jarvis, Kirchner, Malooley, and Trummel.

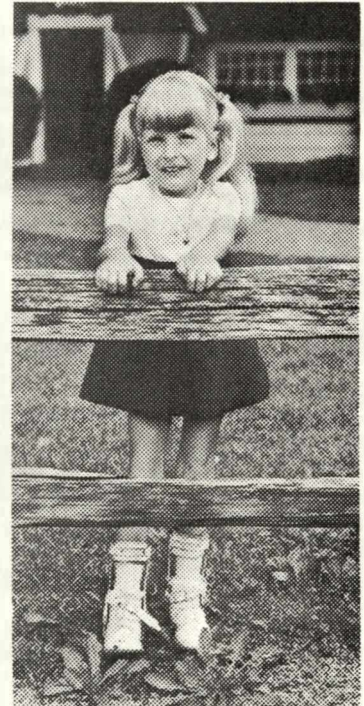
While defending itself, City Hall has restorted that media members, when requesting photocopies, are wasting too much valuable time of city workers. One immediately envisions long lines of news reporters crowded in City Hall, loading workers with stacks of documents to be duplicated. Jarvis pointed out that this picture was false. Few people actually have requested copies.

The final vote on Resolution 13 as amended came after lengthy discussion including statements from newsmen and audience members, as well as councilmen. Only two councilmen--Lamb and Neaderhiser--voted against the resolution in a seven-to-two decision.

The photocopying issue is mainly symbolic. Unlike an ordinance which has the force of law, a resolution merely expresses the council's view. However, the watered-down resolution, finally approved by the half-hearted council, is ambiguous. It does not define a reasonable copy cost and only calls for city workers' co-operation "when possible," thus leaving easy loopholes within the resolution. In the final analysis, there was "much ado about nothing."



## THE GRASS



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**March of Dimes**

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## Tichenor Named

Indiana Savings and Loan Association announced its President, William G. Tichenor, has been included in the 19th annual edition of "Who's Who In Finance & Industry". The volume is the national compilation of those persons in financial and industrial circles that have distinguished themselves from the majority of business contemporaries.

Tichenor has served as President of Indiana Savings and Loan Association since his election in 1958. He is also Secretary-Treasurer of Spirit of Terre Haute, a member of the National Association of Realtors, Terre Haute Kiwanis Club, and the Masonic Order.



• Other plans call for a permanent band shell to be erected or the bandstand, a new playground with adventure-type equipment and other improvements.

The most controversial part of the plan will probably be the planned closing of Dresser Drive as a thoroughfare through the park. Mobley's plans call for parking lots to be constructed at the north end of the park near Oak Street and also at the south end, near the new Girl Scout headquarters currently under construction.

A 12-foot wide walkway would wind through the park, as well as bicycle paths. Spaces for sculpture would be interspersed along the walkway.

The park superintendent says the project depends on whether or not the Federal Revenue Sharing act is extended, thereby making money available for the ambitious plans.

In the meantime, Frisbee players, sun bathers, lovers and kids are making use of the park in the springtime sun.

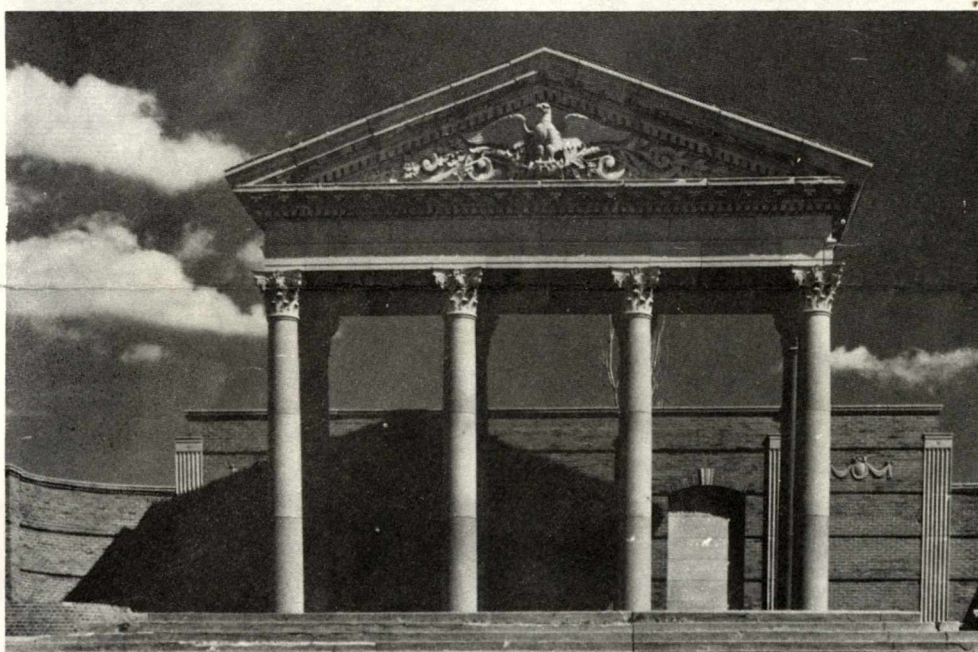
Sp APR 17 1976

*Fairbanks Park comes alive in the spring with bicyclists flashing through and couples walking by the river (opposite page). In the park, visitors are finding the new benches convenient places for talking or watching (below). The benches, walks and plantings are part of an improvement project in the sunken portion of the park. The artesian well (right) is still spouting its sulphur-laden water, believed by many to have medicinal properties. The well, located on north Dresser Drive, can usually be found by following the smell of rotten eggs.*

Photos by Godfrey







## Rose Memorial needs renovation

While a sunbather takes a rest on his car, the Chauncey Rose Memorial looms in the background of Fairbanks Park. The memorial is part of the facade of the old Federal Building in Terre Haute and was erected in the park by the Banks of the Wabash Association "to perpetuate the memory of those who by their generous material gifts have enlarged the spiritual, educational, physical and recreational life of this community."

However, the memorial has fallen on hard times as the brick work is crumbling and the walks are falling apart. City Park Superintendent Pat Dougherty says help may be on the way for the memorial and plans are in the works to ask the city council to appropriate funds to renovate it. Photos at the left are by Lanny Thomas of Terre Haute.



Community Affairs File OCT 15 1980

## Park funds to be sought

*Parks & Recreation Dept.*  
Applications to the state requesting funds to improve two city parks will be submitted by the Terre Haute Park Department.

A proposed rehabilitation project at Fairbanks Park had been submitted earlier through the state's Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program, but was rejected

because the program does not permit the funding of waterfront projects, according to reports.

The Fairbanks plan will be switched to the land and water conservation department and the Voorhees Park proposal submitted through the recovery program.

Voorhees has received preliminary approval for funding through land and water conservation and the Department of Redevelopment has reportedly set aside \$280,000 for Fairbanks.

Estimated cost of the proposals has been set at \$560,000 for Fairbanks and \$200,000 at Voorhees.

Improvements at Fairbanks would include rehabilitation of the bandshell, increased seating, lighting, restoration of the Chauncey Rose memorial, a boat dock, handicapped fishing pier, landscaping and pedestrian and vehicle traffic flow.

Voorhees improvements reportedly would include restoration of a softball diamond, swimming pool repairs, landscaping and traffic routes.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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T OCT 22 1980

# Fairbanks Park grant sought

*Community Affairs File*  
*Parks & Recreation, Vigo Co*  
By BRYAN TAYLOR  
Tribune Staff Writer

Fairbanks Park could become the home of outdoor theater and various concerts if the city receives approval of a federal grant to help pay for renovation of the riverfront park.

Last Friday, an application for \$280,000 was submitted to the federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of Interior, according to Pat Ralston, park superintendent.

If that grant is approved, the city is planning to match it with \$280,000 from its allotment of Community Development Block Grant funds, also federal money, Ralston said.

The city should know sometime by late November or December if it receives approval of the grant for Fairbanks Park.

Even if the Department of Interior grant is approved, work will not be able to be started at Fairbanks Park until June of 1981 because the block grant money will not become available until that time, according to reports.

A design of the work planned for Fairbanks Park already has been developed.

Some of the work being sought for the riverfront park includes: walkways, defined parking areas, a boat launch, a band shell cover, an open air theater, a fishing pier for handicapped persons, landscaping, an exercise course, lighting, restoration of the Chauncey Rose Memorial and a shelter providing an overlook to the river.

Under current proposals, the existing roadway that winds through the park would be closed to vehicle traffic. Reports indicate a new roadway or walkway would be placed along the river.

"We're hoping the park will turn into a cultural focal point for the city," Ralston said. Plays (outdoor theater), rock concerts and symphony concerts are among the events that could take place at the park, he explained.

The addition of the boat ramp could increase boating activities at the river, according to Ralston. He termed the current boat ramp as "treacherous."

Improvement of Fairbanks Park also could serve as a catalyst in keeping downtown development alive, Ralston stated. Some studies of the downtown area have indicated the riverfront park could be an asset to any downtown development. A private firm from Kentucky is planning to construct an office-retail complex in a four-square-block downtown area.

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Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Community Affairs File

TERRE HAUTE, IND.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1981. 3

# Grant bid rejected; park project delayed

T JAN 14 1981

The proposed renovation of Fairbanks Park along the Wabash River will be delayed because the city's grant application seeking federal money for the project has been rejected by a division of the Department of the Interior.

The application rejection was discussed Tuesday afternoon when the city park board met in regular monthly session.

Apparently the city request was rejected because it did not have as many major points of redevelopment as federal officials preferred, according to Pat Ralston, park superintendent.

The total project had been proposed at a cost of \$450,000 and it called for road improvements, renovation of the mounument there, construction of a bandshell cover, installation of a boat launch, playground equipment and landscaping.

Although the application has been denied, the city will resubmit its

application for 1982 and hopefully work can start in November of 1982, Ralston reported.

The Park Department will be able to stay busy with work at other parks, according to Ralston.

Ralston reported work has started on dredging the Deming Park, and a new dam eventually is to be constructed there.

Also reviewed Tuesday was the planned construction of Oakley Park on College Avenue between Eighth and Ninth streets.

Another park project planned is some updating of Memorial Park at Third Street and Eighth Avenue. Work planned there includes relocating light poles around the softball diamond, obtaining bleacher seats and possibly obtaining a press box.

The press box being considered is the one at the former Schulte High School football stadium, but another group has expressed interest in obtaining that item, reports indicated.

REFERENCE  
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Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File



# Fairbanks

3 JAN 14 1981

## Park Plans Delayed

Parks & Recreation  
(Vigo Co)

By NELSON KINNETT  
Star Staff Writer

Plans for redeveloping Fairbanks Park have been halted, according to Park Superintendent Pat Ralston, when it was announced Tuesday a city park grant application had been rejected by the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Terre Haute's City Park Board meet in regular session Tuesday afternoon in City Hall to discuss the Fairbanks grant as well as renovation projects for Deming, Memorial and Oakley city parks.

According to Ralston, the Fairbanks grant application was apparently rejected by UPRR because "we didn't have as many major points of redevelopment as they (UPRR) preferred," Ralston said.

The park board's request for a grant totaled \$450,000. That money was to have been used for road improvements and parking areas; renovation of the Dresser Memorial Monument; construction of a bandshell cover; installation of a major boat launch facility on the Wabash River; installation of playground equipment, landscaping and river front development.

Ralston stated the Park Department would resubmit its request for the grant application for 1982. It will be the same request with a "few added points" he said.

"We will go over the grant request with our lawyers in order to revise the request and send it to the Urban Park program group for approval. I foresee no complications with the grant being approved for 1982," Ralston stated.

Rejection of the Fairbanks program did not appear to hurt the park board's progress in renovating city parks. "It's probably just as well because we have so much to do (with other parks) the Fairbanks project wouldn't have been started until July of 1982 anyway. Now, if the grant is approved, work can start in November of 1982," Ralston added.

Work has begun at Deming Park, with the dredging of the lake, said Ralston. Haley Bros. Construction Corp. has been hired to clean out the lake and construct a new dam.

Ralston said the lake would be restocked with game fish and the ducks would be returned from Dobbs Park. They were temporarily moved while dredging is in progress.

Donations totaling approximately \$50,000 have been designated for use in developing and repairing Oakley Park, located at Ninth and College streets, and Memorial Park, at Eighth Avenue and Third Street.

Ralston said \$35,000 worth of donations are going towards developing Oakley Park. The Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission donated \$15,000 for the purpose of giving Memorial Park a "face lift."

"Redevelopment offered the money in which \$10,000 of it would go into Memorial," Ralston said. To break it down further, Ralston said \$5,000 of it would go towards relocating the light poles around the softball diamond, obtaining bleacher seats for fans and possibly obtaining a press box from the former Schulte High School football stadium.

"The press box is still up for grabs," Ralston said. "We have inquired about it, but Rose-Hulman Institute apparently has expressed a desire in obtaining the property for its own use. We'll have to wait and see. It's a good, sound structure and it would add quite a lot to the softball park."

The rest of the money would be put to use in constructing a fence around the park on Third Street. The purpose of the fence would be to add privacy to park dwellers and as a safety measure for keeping children from accidentally walking out into traffic, Ralston added.

Engineering plans and specifications are currently being drawn for Voorhees Park additions. Ralston said the plans involve improving the softball facility, adding new playground materials and working on the pool. There is approximately \$100,000 allocated for the repairs and improvement.

In other discussion, the park board reviewed the bid submitted to the American Legion State Council requesting the City of Terre Haute be the host for the American Legion State Golf Tournament scheduled for June 26-27, 1982.

Community Affairs File

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# Fairbanks Park work planned

T FEB 11 1981

Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

By BRYAN TAYLOR  
Tribune Staff Writer

Some work is being planned at Fairbanks Park despite a previous delay resulting from denial of a renovation grant application, according to City Hall reports.

Park Superintendent Pat Ralston said Tuesday the Department of Redevelopment is going to put up \$100,000 of its block grant money to repair the park memorial and to erect a bandshell cover.

The city had submitted an application for federal funds to do a complete renovation of the riverfront park, but the application was denied.

The bandshell and the memorial were included in the original application, but state and federal officials reported those projects would not have been eligible for that funding anyway, Ralston reported.

So, the Department of Redevelopment has amended its block grant

program to include the bandshell and memorial work.

The remainder of the work the city is seeking at Fairbanks will be sought in another application next fall, Ralston said.

Ralston reported on Fairbanks Park Tuesday at the regular monthly meeting of the city park board.

In other board business:

- Ralston reported his department has set up an inventory system where approximately 450 Park Department items were tagged and logged in a book. If the administration changes, a complete record of park property will exist, he said. The department is the first in city government to have such an inventory system, he stated.

- Recreation Director Dick Hanley reported a CETA project has been approved to allow seven people work on landscaping and forestry in city parks. The \$44,000 project is to last eight months and it is aimed at

planting trees, pruning trees, planting shrubs, raking leaves and removing trash.

- Ralston reported bids are to be opened Friday on construction of the Oakley Park and fire station at Ninth Street and College Avenue.



# Fairbanks Memorial Renovation Plans Reactivated By Park Board

By J. BLAINE AKERS  
Star Staff Writer

Plans to renovate the Crawford Fairbanks Memorial have been reactivated, according to Terre Haute park officials who said Tuesday \$100,000 will be spent to repair the memorial and to construct a cover for the park bandshell.

Park Supt. Pat Ralston announced project intentions at a Tuesday meeting of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board. He said the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment has budgeted \$100,000 in community development block grant monies for the project at Fairbanks Park.

Ralston said plans for the renovation of the memorial and bandshell had been shelved after state officials refused to fund a Fairbanks Park improvement project for 1981. The city intends to resubmit an application for funds for other improvements at the park, but Ralston said the state would not approve funding of the memorial and bandshell improvements.

"The only way we can get the money to repair the memorial and build the cover over the bandshell is through the department of redevelopment, because the state has told us it won't fund (the project)," Ralston remarked.

Renovation of Voorhees Park also is on the minds of city park officials. Ralston said preliminary drawings are being prepared for the project which is to be funded by state and city redevelopment money.

Also, bids are to be opened Friday for construction of Oakley Park and a

new fire station at Ninth and College streets, Ralston said.

The board approved resolutions amending budgetary items at Hulman Links. Ralston said he will submit two ordinances to the Terre Haute City Council requesting a change in usage of non-reverting funds at the golf course. The change involves using non-reverting funds for all golf course operations rather than just for the pro shop. He said he wants to amend the budget to use \$98,500 for immediate improvements throughout the golf course.

Ralston submitted to the board a

bound volume of all park department equipment which has been inventoried. He said all equipment and property having at least a \$50 value has been listed in the inventory and all property has been tagged.

Recreation Director Dick Hanley reported on a CETA project being formulated in which seven workers will be hired to help beautify city parks. A \$44,000 grant from CETA for eight months has been approved, he said. The workers will be used to remove dead trees from parks, plant new trees, landscape and improve paths at Dobbs Park.



MAY 21 1981

*Paper recreation (Vigo Co.)*

Community Affairs File

# Fairbanks Park design gets OK

By PATRICIA KRAPESH  
Tribune Staff Writer

With an eye to the future for a new look to Fairbanks Park, the Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission approved the most expensive and ambitious of three design concepts submitted by Snell Environmental Wednesday.

Commission approval, according to redevelopment department director Marc Elliott, "authorized bid solicitation on the first phase" of the park project.

The commission also gave paperwork approvals of thousands of dollars proposed expenditures included on a lengthy agenda.

Elliott said all the proposed changes and additions on the Fairbanks Park project may "take several years to complete," contingent upon the availability of funds.

The concept approved by the commission is simply an "overall park design," Elliott explained.

Some alterations were discussed Wednesday, specifically in relation to the design of the outdoor theater.

Also, the first phase called for a boat ramp, which according to discussion at the meeting, may be aborted for the first round of improvements, which will include a covered outdoor theater and restoration of the Chauncey Rose Memorial.

An effort will be made to utilize as much of the existing road through the park as possible, according to a spokesman.

The second phase, according to discussion at a previous meeting, will include improvements to roads and parking areas; new walkways, restrooms, and lighting; a shelter and overlook; a handicapped fishing pier; and landscaping and seeding.

In other business, contracts awarded included a \$31,842.75 community-wide site improvement project to J.A. Sears Inc. for sidewalks, curbs and sewer inlets work. Also for community site improvements work, Heine & Sons Inc. was contracted for \$16,461.85. Major and Sons Construction Inc. will construct new stairs and a handicap ramp at City Hall at a cost of \$29,804.

Several contracts for demolition were awarded according to groups of structures slated for re-

moval. A & C Wrecking was awarded a \$3,580 demolition contract and another firm, Egans, received four contract awards in the following amounts: \$5,410, \$2,660, \$3,140 and \$3,200.

Final engineering plans from two firms for respective portions of a Central Eastside project detailing street and drainage improvements were approved by the commission. Projected cost for the total project was \$774,000 to be paid mostly from federal funds. Bids for construction work on the project are expected to be let midsummer.

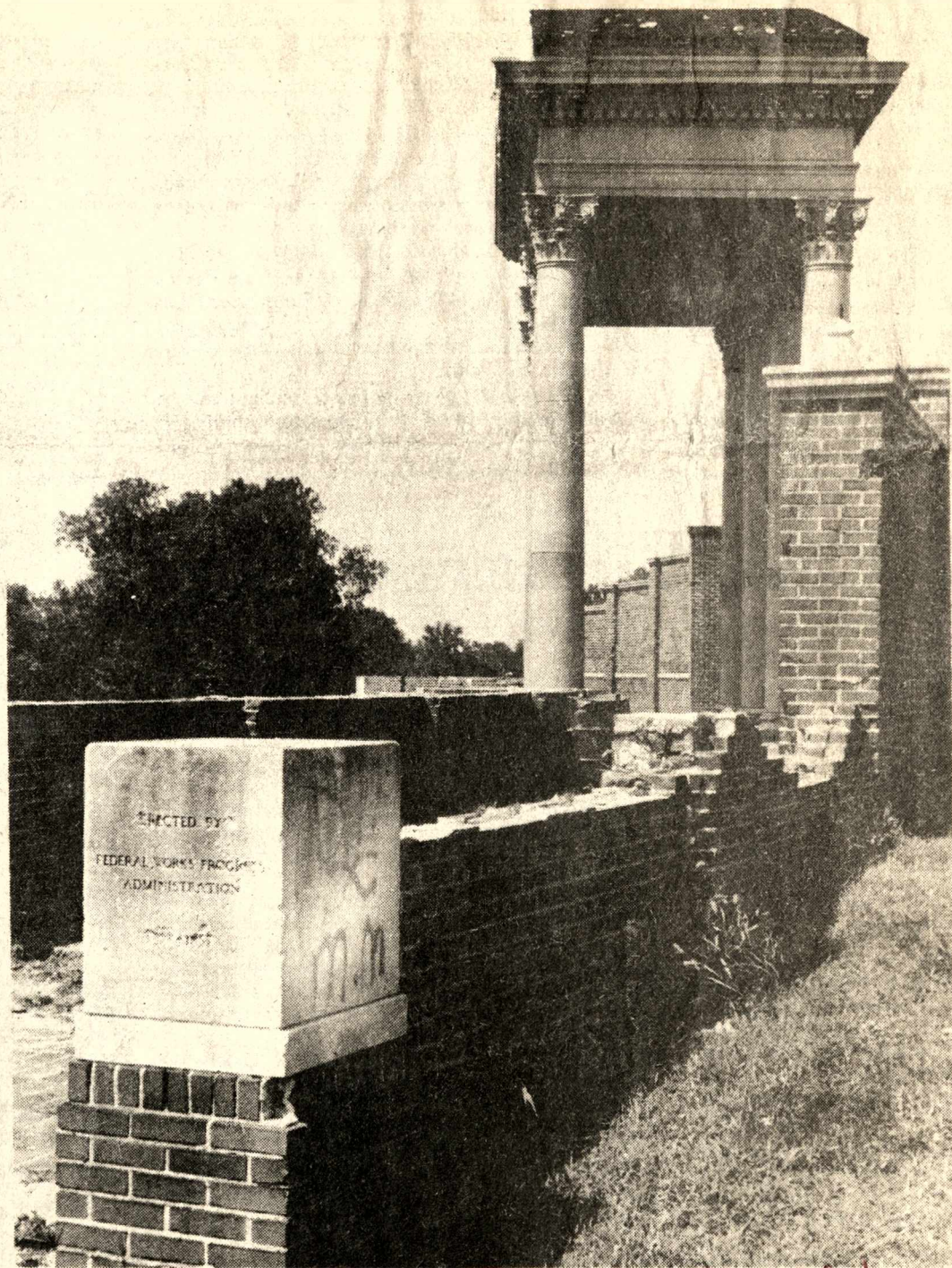
Plans for two sectors submitted by Sebree, Craig & McKnight were approved. While two other sectors of the Central Eastside project engineering plans were prepared by Beam, Lonest & Neff Inc. A representative of the firm said the final cost estimate on this portion of the work was about \$375,000 including a 10 percent contingency.

The commission approved a redevelopment department administrative budget totaling \$266,000, which includes \$6,000 in Urban Development Action Grant funds and the remainder from Community Development Block Grant monies.









**VANDALIZED MEMORIAL** — A city redevelopment department project calls for refurbishing the Charles Fairbanks memorial in Fairbanks Park as a first step toward an overall reconstruction of the riverside park.

Construction contracts for the first phase of the project will be awarded Wednesday at a meeting of the Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission. See page 14 for details.

(Star Photo: Randy Prophet)

AUG 18 1981

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# Redevelopment Commission Will Consider Fairbanks Park

By GERALD P. GRIMES  
Star Staff Writer

Construction contracts for the first phase of the Fairbanks Park renewal project will be considered at Wednesday's meeting of the city redevelopment commission.

Marc Elliott, director of the Terre Haute Redevelopment Department, said contractor's bids on the first phase were opened Monday. He said he will recommend to the commission that the contracts be awarded to the lowest bidders Wednesday.

This was the second bidding for the project, which includes the refurbishing of the Fairbanks Memorial and the construction of a 1,000 seat amphitheatre. The cost is to be near \$260,000.

At the first bidding, the lowest contractor's estimate submitted was about \$76,000 more than the approved engineer's estimate.

Parks Superintendent Pat Ralston, who is helping to coordinate the project through the mayor's office and redevelopment department, seemed pleased with the new bids.

"All we really had to do is make some minor changes and some clarifications," Ralston said.

The second phase of the project calls for an overall refurbishing of the park, including some road construction, landscaping and the building of a boat dock on the Wabash River. The estimated total cost is \$440,000, according to Ralston.

He said his department is working

with Elliott and other redevelopment staff members to secure financing for Phase II. He added that he hopes construction contracts will be awarded next spring.

"We are hoping to get a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the Department of Interior," Ralston said.

The federal government will probably render its decision on the LWCF grant application in December, he added.

As a part of the application process a special public hearing on the second phase of the Fairbanks Park reconstruction project will be conducted Monday, Aug. 24th at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Elliott says the attendance of the public at the hearing, as well as other types of public input, can help get the grant application approved.

"If you have two projects of equal merit in the eyes of the federal government, for example, they'll probably choose the one with more public support to decide between the two of them.

Ralston said letters from Mayor Pete Chalos asking for attendance have been mailed to the Terre Haute merchants and members of the news media, as well as a number of other groups in the community.

Additionally, legal notices have been published concerning the hearing.

Also included on the Redevelop-

ment Commission's Wednesday agenda is consideration of the construction contracts for refurbishing pool facilities at Voorhees Park. The total cost of the project is to be about \$100,000.

The work was divided for contractor's consideration into two parts, work on the pool itself and work on the adjacent building.

Elliott says bids on the pool portion of the project came in about \$30,000 more than the project's original estimate, and that he will ask the commission for a partial rebidding.

The building bids were satisfactory, and Elliott says he'll ask that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder.

The central eastside project will also be on Wednesday's agenda. The commission will be asked to award engineering contracts for the second phase the redevelopment project. The second phase will undergo construction sometime next fall.

Other items include several routine business measures, including the transfer of some funds and some change orders on various projects.



# Fairbanks Park

Community Affairs File

## improvements *Parks & Recreation, Vigo Co.* to be viewed

T AUG 18 1981

By JOE BEACH  
Tribune Staff Writer

Bids for the construction of an amphitheater and the refurbishing of the Fairbanks Memorial in Fairbanks Park, part of a multi-phase plan to improve the park, will be considered Wednesday by the Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission.

Marc Elliot, department of redevelopment director, said the commission has received seven bids for the first phase of the project.

The first phase has been divided into two divisions, he said.

Division A will include the rebuilding of the stage at the park.

A shell over the stage, lighting and seats in the hillside below the Fairbanks Memorial are also included, he said.

Division B will consist of repairs to the Fairbanks Memorial, a monument built by workers in the depression-era Work Progress Administration.

Elliot said he will suggest the commission accept the lowest bid for each project.

The low bid for Division A work was \$179,755.50 submitted by Majors Construction. Western Waterproofing turned in the low bid for Division B work at \$78,418.80.

Attorneys and engineers are inspecting the bids, but Elliot said everything seemed in order.

"We have no reason not to accept the low bid," he said.

Funds for the renovation will come from a community block grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Elliot said other phases in the overall project will include the refurbishing of the park in general and the construction of a boat dock on the Wabash River.

The project will take as many as three years to complete, he said.

"There's more work to be done there than we can afford in any one year," he said.

Contracts will be bid as funds become available, he added.

Also to be considered at the commission meeting are engineering contracts for Phase II of the central eastside street and drainage improvement project.

Elliot said the exact specifications for bidding purposes for the second phase will be discussed.

Construction should begin next summer, he added.

Also to be considered are contracts for the refurbishing of pool facilities at Voorhees Park.

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Community Affairs File



# Bids for Fairbanks Park get Redevelopment OK

T AUG 19 1981

Community Affairs File

By JOE BEACH  
Tribune Staff Writer

The Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission today approved two bids amounting to \$258,173.90 for construction on the first phase of a project to renovate Fairbanks Park.

A low bid of \$179,755.50 was approved for the reconstruction of the stage and a band shell, the construction of seats and lighting work below the Fairbanks Memorial.

The bid was submitted by Majors & Sons Inc.

A bid of \$78,418.40 was submitted by Western Waterproofing Co., Inc. for the restoration of the Fairbanks Memorial.

The construction will be the first phase of a multi-phased plan to refurbish Fairbanks Park. Marc Elliot, director of the redevelopment department, said.

Plans for the park include the construction of a boat dock on the river.

"This is going to be the nicest facility the city's ever done," Pat Ralston, superintendent of parks and recreation, said.

The project is being funded by a community development block grant.

Public hearings on the second phase of the project have been scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the

City Hall Courtroom.

In related action, the commission transferred \$150,000 in grant money originally intended to purchase fire equipment to the park project.

Money for the fire equipment was available from another source, allowing the transfer, Elliot said.

In other business, the commission accepted two separate bids for work on Phase II of the central eastside street and drainage improvement project.

A bid of \$43,200 from Sebree, Craig & McKnight, Inc., was accepted for engineering services for a portion of the project.

A fee of \$30 per hour will be paid

the firm for inspection services.

A bid of \$58,000 was accepted from Beam, Longest & Neff, Inc., for engineering services for the remaining portion of the project.

The firm will also receive a \$30 per hour inspection fee.

Actual construction on Phase II is expected to begin next summer, Elliot said.

The commission awarded a contract for \$50,334 to Majors & Sons for remodeling of a bathhouse and demolition in the renovation of the swimming pool at Voorhees Park.

A \$91,798 bid for the pool's filtration system and other plumbing work was rejected.

Park & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File



S AUG 25 1981

Community Affairs File

*Park & Recreation (Vigo Co.)*

# Fairbanks Park plans reviewed by citizens

By KATHY DENNIS  
Tribune Staff Writer

The proposed boat dock probably will be moved to a different location from planned because of input from one of the 40 to 50 local citizens who attended a public hearing Monday evening about the Fairbanks Park project, Pat Ralston, city park superintendent, said.

As part of the requirements for, getting federal money for the park, a public meeting was conducted Monday so park department officials and other planners of the project could learn local citizens' feelings about the proposed \$700,000 project.

Phase one of the two-phase project includes the remodeling of the Chauncey Rose Memorial, the 1,000-seat amphitheater and the stage cover

at the park. Work on this is supposed to start early next month and be completed by next May, Ralston said.

Phase two includes the boat ramp, handicapped fishing facilities, a shelter overlook, larger restroom facilities, a large fountain, road repaving, walkways, a 20-station exercise course and possibly some playground equipment.

The first phase will cost about \$258,000 and the second phase should cost about \$440,000, Ralston said.

All the money is being sought from the federal government, \$220,000 from the Land-Water Conservation Fund of the Department of Interior and the rest from the Department of Redevelopment.

"The wheels are in motion but no construction will begin until June of

'82 (on phase two)," Ralston said, because all the federal money won't be available until then.

At Monday night's hearing, officials received input from various citizens and community leaders about their thoughts on the project.

Besides the hearing being required for the federal grant, Ralston said its purpose was to "get people interested who might know something we didn't."

The boat-loading ramp will possibly be changed because of what one man said at the meeting. The man, with 45 years' experience working around the Wabash River, said that if the ramp is kept in the present location for which it is planned, it will collect too much silt and mud.

"We hope to put the boat dock in

where it won't be filled with mud all the time," Ralston said. "(The man's testimony) will probably save us a lot of money and manpower later on."

Ralston said that the general feeling of those in attendance was that the park improvements were long overdue.

"Everyone there was in favor of it (the project) for various reasons," he said.

With the boat-loading facility for the river, more persons should be able to use the Wabash for recreation.

"It will open up recreation on the Wabash like it's never been in the history of Terre Haute," he said.

In addition to the recreational facilities, the amphitheater improvements should make the park more cultural, Ralston said.

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# Redevelopment Commission To Meet Phase II Of Fairbanks Work Eyed

Star Staff Report

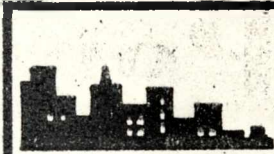
The second phase of reconstruction work at Fairbanks Park will be considered Wednesday by the Terre Haute Board of Redevelopment Commissioners.

Agenda for the regular monthly meeting includes consideration of an extension of the board's engineering contract with Snell Environmental Inc., an Indianapolis firm.

A resolution before the board would allow Snell to prepare plans to construct a new restroom facility on the park grounds. The board's contract with Snell calls for fixing up the restrooms now in the park instead of building new ones.

The resolution also would allow the project to be divided into three construction phases, with separate bids for each phase.

This would mean three different contractors could end up working on the project, assuming the same contractor wasn't awarded all three contracts.



## Local

Adding new restroom plans will add \$3,900 to the design costs of the project and dividing the project into phases will cost an additional \$2,850, a copy of the proposed resolution says. Together the changes total about \$6,750.

The second part of the two-part restoration of Fairbanks Park calls for demolition of the old

restroom facilities and construction of the new restrooms, repavement of some roadways in the park and the addition of a new section of roadway, adding some sidewalks and more landscaping and grass areas.

In other matters before the board, a proposed resolution considered Wednesday

would allow bids to be solicited for seeding new types of ground cover on more than 44 sites where houses have been demolished.

The idea is to reduce weed growth and maintenance of the city-owned lots. The new plants, some of them flowering, will add to the appearance of the lots

and reduce maintenance and health problems, proponents of the idea say.

Mayor Pete Chalos has said the mowing of overgrown weeds on abandoned lots is becoming too costly for the city.

Plants to be included in the seed mixture, called for in plans prepared by the Snell firm for the city, are: Yarrow, Blanketflower, Lance-leaved Coresopsis, Upright Prairie Coneflower, Black-Eyed Susan, Dwarf Shasta Daisy, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Red Fescue, Dutch White Clover and Fine Fescue.

Vigo County Public Library

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5 4-17-82  
Parks + Recreation (Vigo Co.)

## Boat Ramp Repair Sought

When Indiana doles out its money at the beginning of the state's new fiscal year in July, there should be some drops for repairs of the boat ramp at Fairbanks Park.

The state apparently is still looking for a legal way out of a 99-year lease signed with the city in 1959 for the boat ramp, according to Park Superintendent Pat Ralston. But a Department of Natural Resources official has told Ralston the ramp will be repaired when money is available after July. 1.

The ramp is in desperate need of repair, Ralston said. It is covered with silt and part of it has been washed away. Boat owners risk damaging their craft because of the sharp dropoff, he said.

The city had tried twice to get federal funds to repair the boat ramp, Ralston said. Officials did not know about the lease in which the state promised to maintain the ramp until last December.

State officials wrote to the city asking out of the lease, according to Ralston. At that time, the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board voted to demand the state comply with the conditions of the lease and repair the boat ramp.

The state has been responsible for the ramp since it was installed in the late 1950s, according to Ralston. They have not lived up to that responsibility, he said, and should be required to make amends.

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T APR 20 1982

Community Affairs File

# State making waves with city over Fairbanks Park boat ramp

APR 20 1982

It's city vs. state in a conflict concerning a 99-year lease for maintenance of a boat ramp located at Fairbanks Park.

Officials with the state's department of natural resources say the lease is more than 20 years old and there is some question about its legality. George Seketa, Division of Fish and Wildlife, said that the attorney general is looking over the agreement.

Seketa said that he located the lease by accident while going through files. He then sent a copy to Pat Ralston, Terre Haute park superintendent, asking to terminate the agreement.

But Ralston is determined to see that the state fulfills its part of the agreement. He said that both sides must agree before such a lease is terminated.

"We will continuously remind them of their responsibility," Ralston said, noting that he has sent letters to state legislators in the area asking them to focus attention on the matter.

The ramp desperately needs repair, he said, because part of it has been washed away. It is also covered with silt.

Ralston said he first learned of the lease last December.

Seketa said that his department plans to repair the ramp, but it will not be on the scale that the park superintendent had intended. In addition, he said that the local park department will be responsible for "small maintenance."

"Even if the attorney general's office finds that the lease is not legal, we will probably reconstruct it — but Terre Haute will have to maintain it," he said.

His office is involved with boat ramps used for smaller fishing and hunting vessels. "... we aren't in the big boat business," he said.

His office receives only "designated funds" for such projects — which come from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses, and a federal excise tax on sporting equipment.

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Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File



*Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)*  
**Officials check boat ramp**

APR 27 1982

An official from the state's Division of Fish and Wildlife will be in Terre Haute Wednesday to assess the condition of the boat ramp in Fairbanks Park.

Tony Burnside, chief of the division's public-access crew, will be here to find out "what it would take to rehabilitate the ramp and make it safe for use," according to Pat Ralston, Terre Haute park superintendent.

Ralston said Vigo County is the only county in Indiana located on a major waterway that does not have adequate boat-launching facilities.

The ramp has been the source of a six-month disagreement between state and city officials over a 99-year maintenance lease discovered late last year. The matter came to Ralston's attention when officials from the department of natural resources discovered the lease, and wrote Ralston asking to be released from it.

Officials from the state say they believe the lease is outdated, and have turned it over to the state attorney general's office to determine its legality. The lease is more than 20 years old, and was signed at the time the ramp was built.

According to Ralston, the lease is written in such a way that termination can only occur upon agreement of both parties. "They're in a position where they're going to have to do something," Ralston said.

Ralston anticipates some form of compromise with the state will probably have to be worked out, he said. The public-access section deals primarily with fish and hunting ramps, he said, and his department prefers that a multi-purpose ramp be constructed to handle larger boats and possibly hydroplanes.

Ralston said he could not determine any scheduled date for repairs, although state officials have indicated that money should become available after the new fiscal year begins in July.

**Local notes**

State University in 1979. He is a staff accountant with ISU.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File *Park & Recreation (Vigo Co)*

## Fairbanks Park seating delayed

MAY 12 1982

Completion of amphitheatre-type seating at Fairbanks Park will be delayed to July 19 as the result of subsurface soil problems at the site, according to Marc Elliott, director of the city's redevelopment department.

A special meeting of the Redevelopment Commission was scheduled at 9 a.m. today to discuss a change in construction procedures.

The project's costs will also be increased by \$29,235 due to the soil problem.

During excavation, contractors discovered a fill composed of cinder and broken bricks on the hillside where the seating was about to be constructed. "They felt the hillside might settle at sometime, so we've had to come up with a way to correct it," Elliott said.

Pat Ralston, park department superintendent, said the area was used as a landfill about 100 years ago.

Under the new plan, two feet of soil will be removed from the hillside and replaced with a better type of fill — probably soil from some other area in

the park. The seating will also require additional concrete footers for support.

Ralston said the delay will not affect a concert by the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra scheduled Saturday.

The seating was originally supposed to have been completed by "now," according to Elliott.

"We could have rushed it, but then we might have had trouble in a few years," Ralston said.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File



Parks + Recreation (Vigo)

Community Affairs File

# State May Help City Repair Fairbanks Park Boat Ramp

MAY 21 1982

## Star Staff Report

If the city of Terre Haute will take over maintenance, the state might be willing to rehabilitate the boat ramp at Fairbanks Park.

Tony Burnside, southern regional supervisor with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, was in Terre Haute Thursday morning to check out the boat ramp and determine what repairs are needed, according to Park and Recreation Superintendent Pat Ralston.

Ralston will present Burnside's proposals to the mayor and the Park and Recreation Board, he said, and Burnside has to get authorization from state officials.

Even if the city had to contribute some of the materials for the repairs, Ralston said, if the state provided all the labor the city would save a considerable amount of money.

The city had tried to get a grant to repair the boat ramp, but local funds

would be required to pay half the cost, Ralston said. The estimates for repairs have been in the \$50,000 range.

The park department learned the state and city had signed a 99-year lease requiring the state to maintain the boat ramp when the state tried to get the city to let it out of the lease.

Since then the park department has been trying to get the state to agree to do repairs needed for the boat ramp.

Ralston believes the city can maintain the ramp if it is repaired.

"We can take care of it once it's fixed," Ralston said. "But you can't inherit 20 years of neglect."

If the city and the state can reach an agreement on who is paying for what, repairs on the boat ramp could begin sometime this summer, Ralston said. The state also would upgrade the parking lot.

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Community Affairs File



Community Affairs File  
MAY 22, 1982

# Boat ramp's future rises after tour

MAY 22 1982  
T  
Gardens & Recreation, Viggo  
MAY 22 1982  
By SUE LOUGHLIN  
Tribune Staff Writer

Prospects are brighter for the rehabilitation of the boat ramp at Fairbanks Park.

Tony Burnside, southern regional supervisor with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, was in Terre Haute Thursday to inspect the ramp and determine what repairs need to be made.

"He surprised me. He just showed up," Pat Ralston, park superintendent, said Friday.

Although details must still be worked out, Burnside said the state has agreed to construct a 12-foot wide ramp and a small parking lot, and will provide labor and equipment. The state is asking the city to provide materials, such as concrete. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources would like the city to take over the responsibility for maintaining the new ramp.

The cost of the repairs could run as high as \$50,000, Ralston said, with the city's share amounting to about \$5,000 to \$7,000.

The city is holding the state responsible for the boat ramp because of a 99-year lease signed in 1959 in which the state specifically agreed to build and maintain the ramp.

The lease reads, in part: "Lessee (state) agrees that it will, at its sole cost and expense, construct and maintain a launching ramp for boats and a parking area for automobiles; that it will landscape the leased premises, provide suitable trash containers and service same, and erect suitable signs identifying the area."

Ralston found out about the lease "accidentally" in December when officials from the state asked to be released from the agreement.

Though the state has already allocated funding for the 1983 fiscal year which does not include the ramp, Burnside said the state will attempt to come up with the funds. "The main expenditure is for equipment and manpower, which we do have," he said.

Ralston said that the city may agree to maintain the ramp, provided the state completes construction "to our satisfaction."

"We can take care of it once it's fixed," Ralston said. "But you can't inherit 20 years of neglect" at little cost to the city.

Ralston said he must now discuss the matter with Mayor P. Pete Chalos and the park board. In addition, any action must be authorized by state officials.

Earlier, Ralston tried to get a grant to repair the boat ramp, which would have required the city to pay \$25,000 in matching funds.

"It's a blessing in disguise," Ralston said, referring to the lease. "We're coming out better this way."

If the two parties reach an agreement, work could begin this summer, Ralston said.

Both parties expect the lease to be amended in some way.

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*Interpretation (WipCo)*  
Community Affairs +

14

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUT

Local Notes T JUL 19 1992

## **Phase II starts soon at Fairbanks**

Phase II for the renovation of Fairbanks Park should be under way in August, according to Pat Ralston, city park superintendent.

The redevelopment commission will be opening bids Aug. 5 for the project.

Ralston estimated the cost of Phase II at around \$270,000. This year's work includes a new restroom and demolition of the old facilities; new parking areas, as well as resurfacing and curbing the existing park road; landscaping and seeding.

Work on Phase I is nearly completed, he said. That aspect includes restoration of the memorial and construction of a stage with a 1,000-seat amphitheater.

Several projects are scheduled for next year during Phase III of renovation efforts, including a park shelter overlooking the river; a handicapped-accessible fishing pier; a boat-launch facility, and additional walkways.

The work is being paid with Community Development Block Grant funds through the redevelopment department.

Fairbanks Park was chosen for renovation because of its community appeal and its location close to downtown, and along the river.

"We felt it could be a real asset to the community if properly developed," Ralston said, noting that the park had been neglected for years.

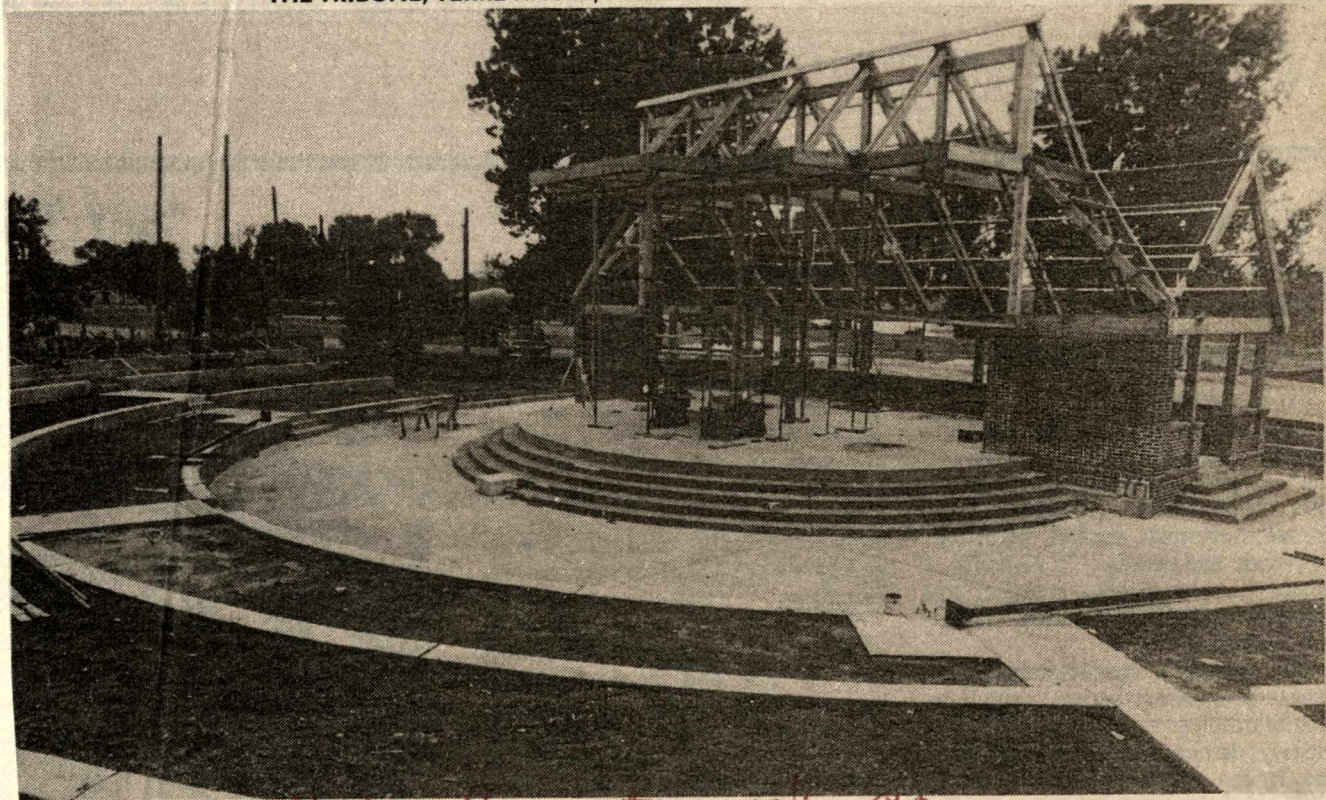
Once the renovation work is completed, Ralston said that there will be a special emphasis on cultural activities such as plays and musical programs.

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*Parks & Recreation Dept. CA*  
FAIRBANKS PARK AMPHITHEATER — Work on *T* should be completed  
the Fairbanks Park amphitheater continues and *JUL 23 1982*

some time this summer.  
Staff Photo/Bob Poynter

*Vigo County Public Library*



# Redevelopment hires engineer to investigate Fairbanks project

By ROBIN SCHULBERG  
Staff Writer

Terre Haute's Redevelopment Department has hired a structural engineer to investigate whether engineering plans for the Fairbanks Park amphitheater were faulty.

The investigation could result in a city suit against Snell Environmental Group for problems the Redevelopment Department suspects stemmed from Snell's plans, Marc Elliott, redevelopment director, said Tuesday.

The structural engineer, James L. Leggett of Lexington, Ky., is expected to complete his work in 45 days, Elliott said.

If the city sues, it will ask for reimbursement for at least \$9,000 in change orders that might be attributable to defects in the original plans and damages for delays in completing the amphitheater. It also would seek to recoup Leggett's \$70-an-hour fee, Elliott said.

Original plans were for the \$209,000 structure to be finished by May 15, Park Superintendent Patrick Ralston said. Now Elliott is pushing for it to be done by Labor Day.

"By Memorial Day, we knew we had problems," said Ralston.

The problems center on a beam intended to hold stage

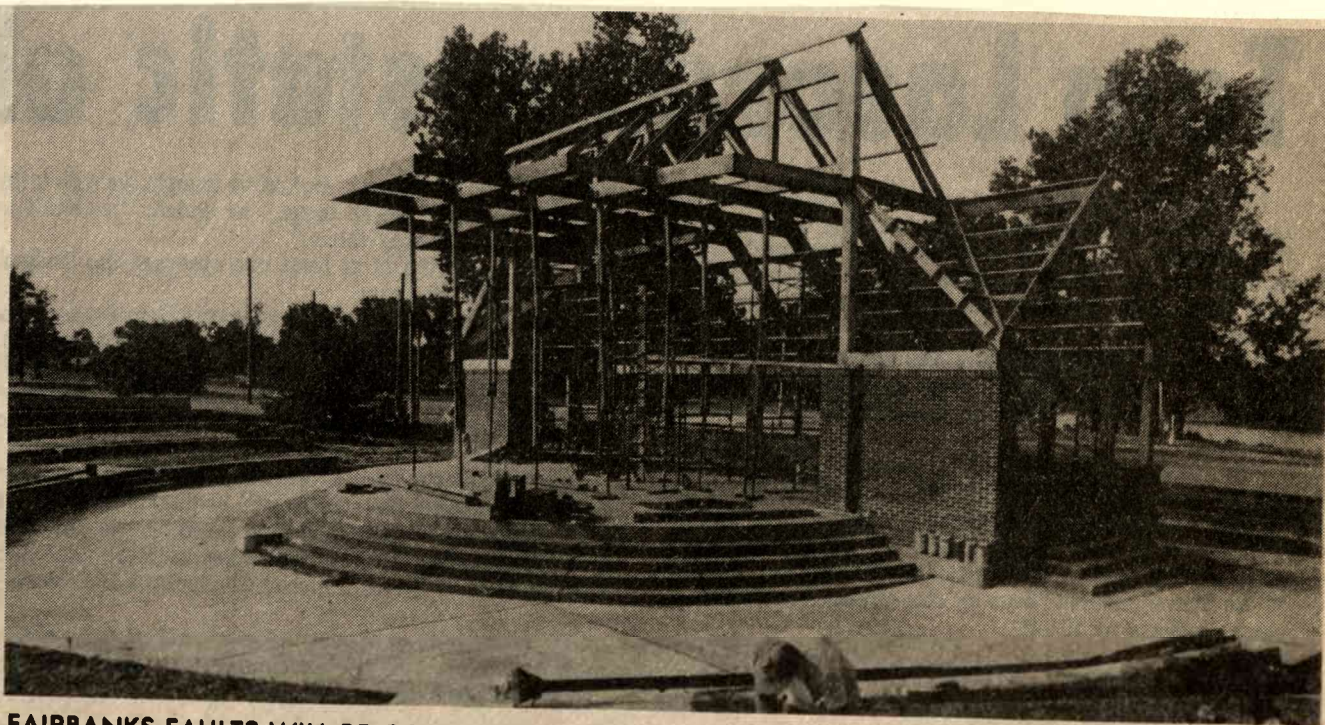
lights. The beam sagged, Elliott said, and Snell recommended changes to add support. Leggett's examination includes both the original design plans and the recommended changes, Elliott said.

The Redevelopment Commission fired Snell last month, saying the Indianapolis firm had failed to submit its plans on time and had asked for too many change orders. The commission hired Dan Sanders and Associates to complete the job.

Major and Sons, the Clinton contractors, have agreed to finish and pay for \$5,000 to \$10,000 in corrective work that must be done before the stage is safe for use, Elliott said. Tom Davidson, a Major vice president, declined to comment Tuesday on whether or how Major intends to recoup those expenses.

Meanwhile, the redevelopment department opened bids Tuesday for work on another phase of Fairbanks Park, including resurfacing of Dresser Drive, landscaping and construction of a restroom, curbs and parking facilities.

Low bidder was Haley Bros. at \$284,440.93, followed by Power Development Co. at \$273,894, J.A. Sears at \$295,313, White Excavating Co. at \$280,006 and Shelton Hanning at \$372,294.



**FAIRBANKS FAULTS WILL BE CORRECTED** — The Terre Haute Redevelopment Department may sue Snell Environmental Group, Indianapolis, for plan

delays and what they term excessive change orders for the Fairbanks Park Amphitheater construction.  
Staff Photo/Bob Poynter



AUG 18 1982

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co)

Community Affairs File

## Haley Bros. gets contract to complete Fairbanks

The Redevelopment Commission awarded a \$264,440 contract to Haley Bros. Construction Co. today for road resurfacing, curb improvements and restroom renovation at Fairbanks Park.

The work must be completed by Nov. 1, the end of the construction season. The 75-day construction period is shorter than usual because Snell Environmental Group, the Indianapolis engineers for the Fairbanks Park renovation, completed construction plans about 2½ months late, redevelopment director Marc Elliott said.

The Redevelopment Commission, at its last meeting, fired Snell and hired Dan Sanders and As-

sociates to complete engineering for the Fairbanks Park amphitheater and park improvements.

The commission approved a contract with Sanders at \$30 an hour, up to \$6,000 maximum, unless unforeseen work becomes necessary.

Meanwhile, a Louisville, Ky., structural engineer hired by the redevelopment department is examining Snell's plans to see if they were faulty. If they were, the commission may sue Snell.

The Haley Bros. contract is about \$14,000 over the amount budgeted for this year's Fairbanks Park improvement. Change orders have boosted the original construction cost for the amphitheater, and Elliott said that final costs for two other Snell-

designed projects at Voorhees and Sheridan parks also were higher than budget estimates.

Also Wednesday, the commission awarded a \$7,521 contract to A and C Wrecking Co. to clear and grade a former dump on city-owned land at Prairieton Road and Margaret Avenue. The property probably will be used for storage, Elliott said.

A and C Wrecking also will barricade two city parcels acquired in a 1960s Urban Renewal Plan to stop dumping of junk cars on the property. The parcels are west of Third Street.

"This would make them more marketable for people who want to buy them," Elliott said.

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## Amphitheater

AUG 28 1982

## won't meet

## Labor deadline

Construction of the Fairbanks Park Amphitheater won't be completed by Labor Day as city officials had hoped.

Construction work is on temporary hold until a Lexington, Ky., structural engineer finishes his review of certain key parts of the amphitheater plans, said Dan Sanders, the newly hired project engineer.

"It's better to stop and make sure it's absolutely right and safe so that we don't have to do anything twice," Sanders said Friday.

The problems at the amphitheater surfaced last spring when city officials noticed that the cantilever, which holds up the stage lights, was sagging. The Redevelopment Commission fired Snell Environmental Group, the project engineers, in July, and in mid-August the Redevelopment Department hired James L. Leggett, Lexington, to review Snell's plans. If Leggett's examination reveals that the plans were faulty, the city may sue Snell.

Meanwhile, the commission hired Dan Sanders and Associates to complete engineering for the project and Major and Sons, the Clinton contractors, agreed to finish the work. As of mid-August, Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott and Park Superintendent Patrick Ralston were aiming for the Labor Day completion date.

But Sanders said he discovered the potential problems with the structure were "a little bit worse than we'd hoped for."

"It may require changing a lot of things," he said.

One of those problems is the truss that holds up the amphitheater roof. Sanders said that Snell designed it upside down. The company might have had a valid reason for the design, Sanders said. But because customary practice is different, Sanders said he wants to check the soundness of the Snell design.

In addition, Sanders said that the 300 to 400 bolts in the structure may be the wrong size. If the bolts are too small, he said, they could crush or split the wood in the structure.

Sanders said he hopes to have some answers from Leggett next week and to lift the hold on the work. After that, construction should be finished in two weeks, he said.

The Labor Day Parade committee had planned to use the stage during its post-parade picnic.



Community Affairs File

PARADISE + RECREATION (VIGO CO.)

T SEP. 4 1982

## Fairbanks Park may get promenade, fountain

Plans for a riverside promenade and a fountain are in the works for Fairbanks Park, Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott said Friday.

If approved by the Redevelopment Commission Sept. 15, the walkway and fountain would be incorporated into \$290,000 worth of park improvements scheduled for 1983, he said.

The master plan for the park now calls for construction of a fishing pier

and overlook, which Elliott recommends dropping because of the expense.

The promenade would extend for about 800 feet from a boat launch area, also to be built in 1983, to the amphitheater now under construction, according to preliminary plans. The fountain would be built in the "sunken garden" with columns from an old church that were donated by

the Blumberg family, Elliott said.

The sunken garden now has a small fountain, which the more grandiose structure would replace.

Elliott and other city officials met this week with representatives of the Indiana Arts Council to discuss funding for the fountain.

"They were good people and had good ideas," Elliott said. "But the

program was not geared to someone who wants to move immediately."

The arts council representatives didn't pinpoint a possible grant amount, but indicated it probably would be only in the \$2,000 range, he said.

Present plans are to use community development block grant funds for park improvements.

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## Student design for park sought

T OCT 20 1982

Terre Haute's Redevelopment Department is inviting high school and college students throughout Vigo County to submit designs for an \$80,000 to \$100,000 fountain to be built in Fairbanks Park.

The student who submits the best design will win \$1,000, with three runners-up receiving \$200 apiece. The prize money will be donated by Anaconda Aluminum Co.

Funds for constructing the fountain will come from next year's community development block grant, expected to total over \$2 million.

The fountain, scheduled to be built in 1983, is part of city plans to turn Fairbanks Park into what Mayor P. Pete Chalos said could be one of the city's best assets. As Terre Haute's only access to the Wabash River, city officials say the park improvements could have spin-off effects on the downtown's image.

The fountain itself would be the "focal point" of the park, Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott said.

"The idea behind the competition was to try to involve more people in Terre Haute in the redevelopment of Fairbanks Park," Elliott said.

In particular, Elliott said that the city wanted to familiarize young people with the park and the improvements.

Students are being asked to submit a design concept only, Elliott said; the actual design engineering will be done by Dan Sanders & Associates, engineers for overall park improvements.

The deadline for submission of entries is Dec. 31. The winner will be announced Jan. 7.

Meanwhile, other work at Fairbanks Park continued as the Redevelopment Commission Wednesday approved \$9,270 in additional funds for soil to fill the 1,000-person seating area for the amphitheater.

The commission also decided to accept work done by Major & Sons, the project contractors, under the 1981 phase of the project, excluding the yet-to-be completed amphitheater. Work on the amphitheater is on hold while the Redevelopment Department awaits a report from an outside engineer hired to review Snell's plans. Nonetheless, Elliott hopes that the amphitheater will be finished this fall.

## City, developer negotiating for sewer line extension

City officials are talking with the Booneville developer of a State Farm insurance claim center at Second and Cherry Streets about who will pay to extend sewers onto the property.

Allan Holweger, the developer, thought the sewer ran through the site when he bought it for \$30,000 from the city last month. Jeff Holweger, who is directing construction of the project, said that assumption was based on old charts.

Subsequently, the Holwegers found the sewer stopped at Second Street. If the sewer shown on the old charts ever existed, it probably was torn up

when the area was demolished in the 1960s as part of the city's redevelopment efforts, Mayor P. Pete Chalos said.

Extending the sewer onto the State Farm property is expected to cost about \$3,000. Chalos said the city is talking with the developer to "get an equitable solution," but Jeff Holweger said Wednesday that his company probably would foot the bill rather than "worry" about it.

Project costs are estimated at \$150,000. Eventually, State Farm is expected to construct a second building on the site.

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# Not all bubbling with enthusiasm over Fairbanks fountain contest

T OCT 22 1982

By ROBIN SCHULBERG  
Staff Writer

Reaction in Terre Haute's art community to the city's student competition for a design of a sculpture-fountain in Fairbanks Park ranges from enthusiasm to disappointment.

But there is general agreement — and strong sentiment — that the panel of jurors should have included at least one professional artist.

"Do they want a piece of art or do they want something that bubbles and spews?" Fred Bunce, a prominent art educator, said after hearing the names of the jurors. "It seems to be another aesthetic-political boondoggle."

City officials announced Tuesday that they were seeking designs from high school and college students throughout Vigo County for the \$80,000 to \$100,000 fountain. The winner and runners-up, who will receive \$1,000 and \$200 grants respectively, will be selected by a seven-member jury.

The jurors, who were appointed by Mayor P. Pete Chalos, are: Harry Frey, the mayor's administrative assistant; Cliff Lambert, Redevelopment Commission chairman; Robert Lindsay, plant manager of Anaconda Aluminum Co., which is donating the prize money; Park Superintendent Patrick Ralston; City Councilwoman Judy Anderson; City Engineer Louis Glascock, and Dan Sanders, the project architect and engineer.

The list of names prompted artists and art experts to question whether the city wanted a work of art. Who on the panel was qualified to judge the entries for their artistic merit, they asked.

"If you don't have people judging it who know anything about art, it's crazy," said Mint Evans, a local artist. "It's like going to the dentist with a plumbing problem."

The winning entry, Bunce predicted, would be "the lowest common denominator," "kitsch," or pop-culture. Bunce suggested shrinking the panel to three people: a city official, an engineer and an artist.

Laura Elmore, president of Arts Illiana, suggested adding an entire panel of artists to evaluate art, and asking the present panel to judge for "community appropriateness."

Robert Kinsman, director of the Swope Art Gallery, declined comment until he had further information.

But Chalos said the panel represents and involves a broad spectrum of the community. Each juror, he said, had financial, technical or legislative responsibility for

the fountain or had been active in civic affairs.

"If we have left the artistic community out, I'm sorry, but everyone of those people (on the jury) has a role in it," Chalos said. "Maybe there are other ways they (artists) can feel free to contribute to the city."

The consensus in the art community breaks down on whether a student competition was the best way to go in the first place. Sanders said that students will be asked to provide a concept only and that he will implement it. Sanders said that he has built fountains in three other cities, including Evansville and Muncie.

Chalos and Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott said they had decided on a student competition because it maximized community involvement and would get young people interested in the park. Elliott's department is funding the project with community development block grant money.

Chalos said that commissioning a professional artist would be too expensive and would leave the city "at the mercy of his thought."

"If we commissioned a person, we'd get just what he wanted," Chalos said, citing the fountain in front of City Hall as an example of poor work done by a professional. "I don't want another one like this."

After a theme emerged from the competition, Chalos said the city might commission an artist to produce it, if the design required it.

"I think it's a great idea," Robert Evans, assistant professor of sculptor at Indiana State University, said of the competition.

Evans, as well as Bunce and a local high school art teacher, said they thought students could come up with good designs and that a good engineer could handle construction problems.

But Bert Brouwer, director of the Turman Gallery at ISU, said a professional should do the job.

"Not to deprecate the quality of students ... but students are students," he said. "When you design a building, you don't go to a student, you go to a professional."

"If you're going with an \$80,000 project, you better have people who can produce professional products," he said. "Here's an opportunity for something exciting to happen in the visual arts and it's just being

eroded away into something insignificant."

Good designs are more than abstract ideas, Mint Evans said. Design had to include considerations of how expensive the design would be to build, whether it would work and how easily it could be maintained, decisions that she said required professional experience.

To isolate practical considerations and leave those to the engineer could violate the integrity of the design as the engineer made changes needed to make the project feasible, Brouwer said.

Sanders said that he would consult with the designer on changes where options were involved.

"Students could come up with a nice design but would it be functional?" said Sister Rita Ann Roethle, art director at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College. "I hesitate to encourage the average student because of time involvement."

The decision to hold a student design competition was made after aborted negotiations with Charles Gibson, a local sculptor. Gibson asked for a higher commission than the Redevelopment Department thought appropriate and Sanders also said that "he was a little more difficult than he should have been."

Despite fears that criticisms of the student competition might be interpreted as "sour grapes," Gibson says he's saddened by what he calls "a blown opportunity to give the city something of real quality and lasting beauty."

"They've got \$100,000 of public monies. They should select the very best and instead they pick the people with the least experience," Gibson said. "It's a waste; it's second class. Terre Haute deserves more."

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T DEC 30 1982

Parks & Recreation (10) Community Affairs File

## Entries reach 32 in Fairbanks Park fountain competition

Thirty-two entries have been submitted in competition for design of a sculpture-fountain in Fairbanks Park, Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott said Wednesday.

"That's better than I ever expected," Elliott said.

The cut-off date for entries is Friday and winners are scheduled to be

announced Jan. 10.

The city decided to have a competition for Vigo County high-school and college students for design of the \$100,000 fountain to encourage community involvement in the Fairbanks Park improvements. The competition initially met with criticism from local artists, who said an artist should

have been included on the panel of judges.

Prizes, provided by Anaconda Aluminum Co., are a \$1,000 grant to the winner and \$200 grants to three runners-up. The money to build the fountain will come from 1983 federal community development block grant funds.

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*(6)*  
**Dubois wins**  
**competition**

T JAN 14 1983

Fairbanks Park's new sculpture-fountain will be based on a design by Thomas Dubois, a 21-year-old Indiana State University student of graphic design.

Dubois's design was selected from 42 entries in a countywide competition for art students sponsored by Terre Haute and Anaconda Aluminum Co.

The fountain will consist of two intersecting arcs from which water will fall. Pedestrians can walk through the arcs between the water "walls."

The fountain will cost an estimated \$100,000 and is expected to be built later this year. Supervising the construction will be Dan Sanders, the project engineer.

Dubois will receive a \$1,000 prize, donated by Anaconda. He is a native of Rochester, N.Y., and moved to Terre Haute to attend ISU.

"I hope it (the fountain) serves Terre Haute the way I intended it to," Dubois said.

Runners-up were Mark Melick and Chris St. Clair, also ISU graphics design students, and Terry Zellers, a student in Ivy Tech's drafting department. Each will receive \$200, also donated by Anaconda.

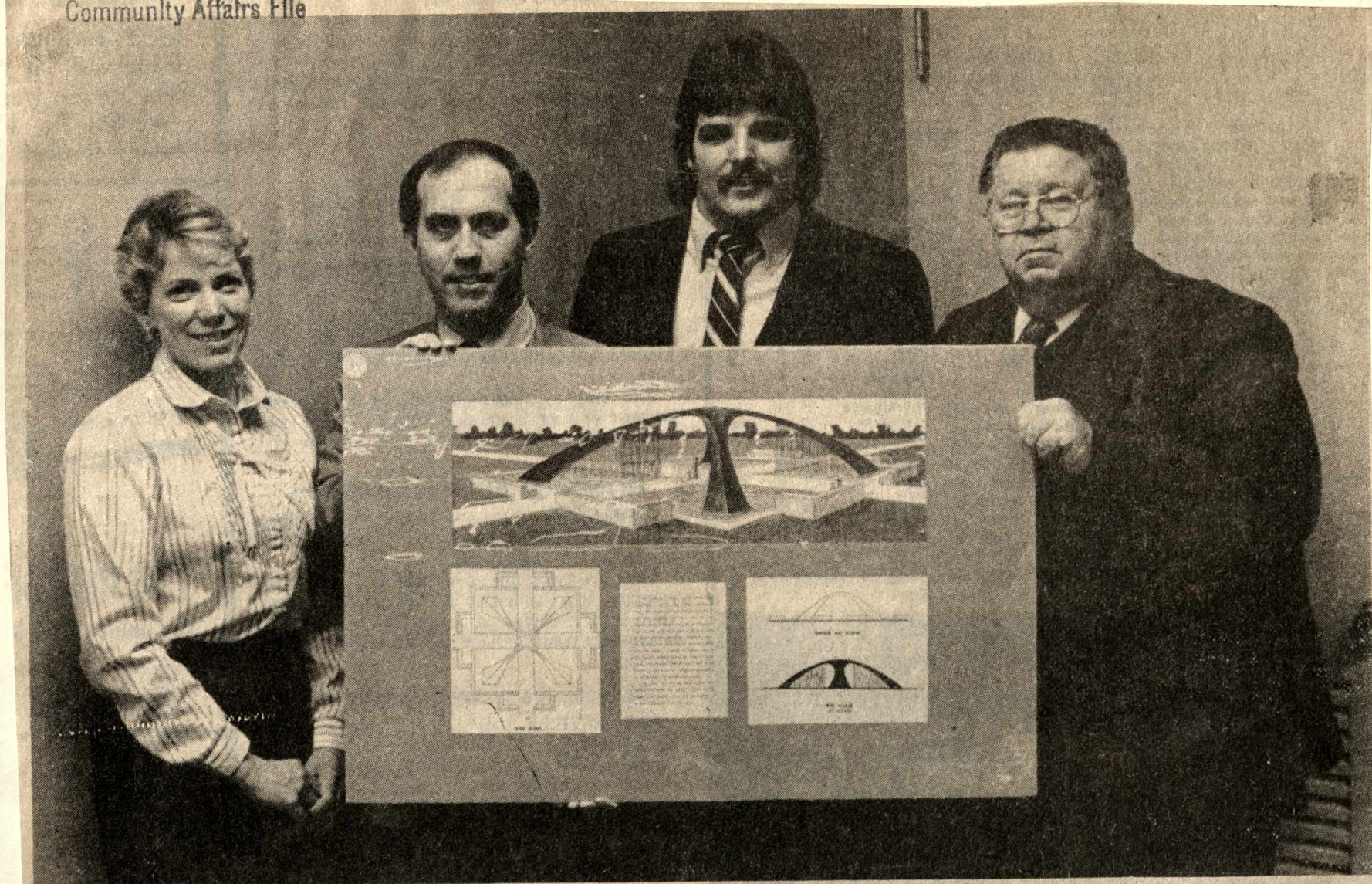
The fountain is one part of a three-stage city program to upgrade Fairbanks Park and create what officials hope will be a regional riverfront facility.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File





**WINNING DESIGN** — City Councilwoman Judith Anderson, Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott, design winner Thomas Dubois and Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant manager Richard Sutherland exhibit the winning entry. Staff Photo/Jim Avelis



Parks + Recreation (Ind)

S APR 1 1983

## Architect, contractor plan to repair park structure

The architect and contractor who built on the Fairbanks Park amphitheater have agreed to correct and complete the structure at their own expense, Terre Haute Redevelopment Director Marc Elliott said Thursday.

Work on the amphitheater was halted last summer after flaws in the structure appeared more serious than originally thought.

The city's Redevelopment Commission asked a Lexington, Ky. structural engineer to review the project plans and gave Elliott permission to sue the responsible parties, if necessary.

The engineer's report, completed last month, found both Snell Environmental Group, the Indianapolis architect, and Major and Son, the Clinton contractor, at fault. It recommended extensive changes in the amphitheater.

Elliott said Snell and Major agreed last Friday to complete the work and to decide later each company's share of the cost.

The city won't be involved in that determination, Elliott said.

Once resumed, the work is expected to take 30 days, he said.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File



*Park & Recreation*  
**Haley Bros. wins  
Fairbanks contract**

Haley Bros. Construction Corp. won the contract Wednesday for work on phase three of Terre Haute's Fairbanks Park renovation and improvement project with a low bid of about \$482,000. The bid was approved by Terre Haute's Re-development Commission.

The architect's estimate was \$525,000; the project budget, \$530,000.

Included in phase three will be a handicapped-fishing pier, a cement promenade along the Wabash River, a fountain, sidewalks, an ice rink, a fitness trail, new lighting and underground electrical wiring, landscaping and refurbishing of the existing artesian well.

A shelter financed by the Downtown Kiwanis Club and a boat ramp financed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources also will be built.

Five other firms bid on the work.

Construction is expected to begin early next month.

JUN 17 1983

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library



Parks & Recreation (14)

## U.S. grant to aid Fairbanks renovation

A federal grant for \$220,000 will be awarded Friday to the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department for the development of Fairbanks Park.

The grant was made available through the U.S. Department of Interior.

Funds from the grant will be used for the development of boat ramp, fishing pier, playground, shelter, ice rink, lighting, fitness trails, walkways, landscape work, a fountain and paving.

T s JUN 23 1983

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File



Park & Recreation (Wigo 6)

# Fairbanks fountain to preserve heritage

SEP 3 1983

By John Halladay  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The \$1.3 million Fairbanks Park improvement project now under way will include a 4-foot-tall concrete fountain for a spring that once was used for social, hygienic and medicinal purposes.

The spring, along Dresser Drive near the Wabash River at the north end of the park, once helped feed the former Magnetic Mineral Springs Bathhouse just up the hill.

During the 1870s, 1880s and into the 1890s, "the big deal around here was the fact that, every time you drilled a hole, you would get oil or gas or mineral water," according to Dorothy Clark, who was designated Vigo County historian by former Gov. Otis Bowen.

The park spring is at the edge of an underground dome of rock, she said, and it developed into one of the best sources of local mineral waters for bathing and drinking. "It was sort of a fashionable place to go, too."

The bathhouse burned down, and only the spring is left.

Municipal attention to the spring varied over the years. "At times, the city administration would take care of it, and they would provide a drinking fountain," she said. "Peo-

ple did take gallon jugs and go down and get it and take it home," even, though the spring smells strongly of sulfur.

She said that a few years ago the city tried to plug the spring, which was just barely bubbling during a dry spell. But renewed rains created underground pressure, and the spring became more active again, "so the best thing to do is to control it," rather than try to block it off. After all, the spring is part of Mother Nature, she said.

"French Lick, of course, made a national reputation out of Pluto Water, and this is the same kind of water," Mayor P. Pete Chalos said Friday.

But it is by no means certain that the spring is now safe to drink. The Vigo County Public Health Department will be sending a sample to state health officials to check. It may be several weeks before the results come back.

Even if the water turns out to be unsafe to drink, the fountain for the historic spring will "add a little bit to the uniqueness of the area," Chalos said.

When the park improvement project is finished, the spring will be at one end of a promenade along the portion of the park fronting on the Wabash.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library



# Protestors jeopardize park ramp

By Sue Loughlin  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

City officials say a ramp scheduled to be built by the state in Fairbanks Park may never become reality if a group of local citizens continues to protest its location and construction.

Approximately 20 citizens gathered at the park Saturday to protest the new ramp, which will replace another state-built ramp which has fallen into disrepair.

"We are concerned that the boat launching ramp which is now being constructed ... will not provide safe and usable access to the Wabash River and fulfill the needs of this community," the group said in a prepared statement.

Dave Hanson, spokesman for the group, said the new ramp is improperly located, which could cause silting and access problems.

Also, he said the shape of the ramp is difficult for launching and retrieval of boats, and potentially dangerous for the operation of Hovercraft. Those present for the press conference included Chris Fitzgerald and Steve Auten, who sponsor the annual Hovercraft Rally.

The group would like the ramp built farther north near a parking area, where it would be easier to turn vehicles and unload boats.

They say the ramp should be built perpendicular to the water rather than at a slant, to avoid silt.

An angry Mayor P. Pete Chalos joined the crowd briefly to warn them their protests could kill the project altogether.

"Those folks are not engineers," Chalos said before leaving. "I'm depending on engineers from the state of Indiana. If they think that's the best place to build it, then we agree with engineers of the state of Indiana."

The group maintained the city has failed to listen to their suggestions, and has not questioned the design or location of the proposed ramp.

According to Pat Ralston, city park superintendent, the ramp is leased to the state, and all shots are called by them. "We really don't have anything to do with it."

He estimated the ramp is costing the state about \$100,000, with the city's Redevelopment Department providing \$10,000.

Ralston offered to lease the boatsmen land in order to build another ramp.

"If that ramp is not built, none will be," Ralston said, adding the city does not have the funds to build its own. "Our concern is for the public in general, not for any special interest group."

Ralston also said the state engineers would not "spend money on something thing that doesn't work."

The state agreed to build a new ramp after the discovery of a 99-year lease agreement, which stipulated they would build and maintain the old ramp.

Under a new agreement, the state will build a new ramp, and the city park department will maintain it.

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T s NOV 3 1983

## Ramp unsatisfactory for launching, safety

To the Editor: **Community Affairs File**

As the National President of the Hoverclub of America Inc. I would like to comment on the boat launching facility at Fairbanks Park.

For the past eight years, the Hoverclub of America has held its National/International Rally in Fairbanks Park, Terre Haute. The event has attracted international interest, being the only U.S. rally of its type. Further, the event has great potential for growth and expansion as the Light Hovercraft industry is in a prime position.

Each year, in preparation for the rally, the Hoverclub has received the assistance of local businesses, the park department and the visitors bureau. One difficult task which the club has to face, every year, is the preparation of the existing ramp. This usually involves finding a volunteer with a bulldozer. The ramp has always been a problem as it silts up with mud and is an unpredictable facet of the rally for those drivers from out of town.

When the Mayor (Chalos) began to improve the parks, the idea of a new boat launching facility was good news. During the past three years there has been an active dialogue between area boaters, the hoverclub and the park department with the objective of producing a facility that would suit all needs. Most of the ideas recommended were not utilized by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources who are the designers and builders of the new ramp.

Suddenly, construction was underway, and when we came to investigate the blueprints for the new ramp it was all too much like the existing ramp, a ramp that was not successfully used by boaters and river users. Our concerns were taken to the mayor's office and the park department, where we were met with disdain. We were warned not to interfere or there would be no ramp. Therefore a decision was made to publicize our concerns about the deficiencies of the new ramp.

The Tribune-Star published a welcomed editorial pointing out this conflict in concerns on Oct. 3, 1983. Our interest is in seeing a job well done and the construction of a ramp which would provide safe access to the Wabash River and help to develop this relatively unknown local asset.

Our objections are based on knowledge, experience and independent professional opinions:

- The location of the ramp does not allow easy and safe access for boat trailers or Hovercraft. Sufficient space is required for turning and maneuvering boat trailers. Hovercraft need room at the top of the ramp for braking and turning. Our suggestion is to have a ramp feed directly into the large car park just to the north allowing both of these requirements.

- The width of the ramp is an important consideration. Frustration occurs when only one boater can launch or retrieve a boat at one time. A safety factor is neglected if the ramp is occupied — no craft can get into the river for needed rescue. Hovercraft need a wider space so more than one craft can enter or leave the river simultaneously. Racing events usually include multiple craft entries but this has not been possible at the national rally due to the ramp. Our recommended width is 40 feet.

- The slope of the ramp can cause a dangerous situation as towing vehicles back down to unload. If it is too steep, launching and retrieval problems may prohibit its use. Hovercraft, likewise, have to make the water/land transition using the ramp. The steeper the slope the more power and speed is required to make it up the ramp. The existing ramp had an average slope of 11 percent, the proposed ramp increases that to 15 percent. Our recommendation was for 12 percent.

- A most crucial point of contention is the approaching angle which the es to the river. After analyzing other ramps along the Wabash River, the following ramps seemed most operative: Darwin's Ferry, Vincennes and Montezuma. The ramps in Clinton and Terre Haute both save silt problems and are both angled into the river while the others are perpendicular entries. The angled Fairbanks Park boat ramp was inoperable most of the time due to silt build-up. Our recommendation was that the ramp should be as perpendicular to the river's edge as possible.

All these points were made with sufficient time allowance for the design and planning phase of the ramp. The Hoverclub is not asking for special treatment. These requests would only make the ramp safe and useful for all river users and add to the resources in this area. Our concern is raised over our neglected recommendations which could possibly result in a dangerous boat launching facility.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Tribune-Star for its support, the local television stations for their coverage and those businesses that have assisted with our event. We appreciate the previous cooperation and assistance that the Hoverclub of America Inc. has received from the city. Hopefully this situation can be resolved and will result in continuance of our mutually beneficial arrangement.

—J. Christopher Fitzgerald

—President

—Hoverclub of America Inc.

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Community Affairs File



## CITY PARK NEWS

by Patrick R. Ralston,

# Fairbanks Park Renovation Program June 10, 1984

- MacKaville  
Lazetto  
6-6-84*
- 1:00 - 1:45 Air Force Jazz Band.  
1:45 - 2:15 Program  
Master of ceremonies - Patrick R. Ralston  
-Invocation by Rev. Floyd Miller.  
-National Anthem.  
-Introductions of:  
P. Peter Chalos, Mayor  
George Alsop, President of City Council.  
Marc Elliott, Director of Redevelopment.  
Committee Members  
-Benediction, Rev. Floyd Miller.  
2:15 - 3:00 Air Force Jazz Band Resumes.  
3:30 - 4:00 "Backseat Four" Barbership quartet.  
4:00 - 4:30 Sycamore Strummers.  
4:30 - 5:00 "Heavens Harmony" Gospel Singers.  
5:00 Activities End.
- Balloons will be available.  
-Magic Show w/Dan Brock at Fairbanks Park.  
-Memorial (12-1:00 p.m. and 3-3:30 p.m.)  
-Billy Bob from Showbiz (periodically from 12:00-5:00).  
-Pete Gallagher as the Clown! (periodically from 12:00-5:00).

*Parks + Recreation*  
Community Affairs File

## By Judy Calvert

The original Fairbanks Park, consisting of 38 acres of land, was donated to the City of Terre Haute in 1916 by Crawford Fairbanks and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fairbanks in memory of Crawford and Edward's father, Henry Fairbanks.

The Fairbanks family was one of the earliest families to settle in Terre Haute. Henry Fairbanks was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Terre Haute Mayor Edmunds in 1877 and was elected to the office in 1878. However, he died after serving only a few months of his term.

Crawford Fairbanks was a prominent local businessman and was active in civic affairs. He gave generously of his time and money for community improvement projects and, in addition to Fairbanks Park, established and endowed the Emeline Fairbanks Public Library (now the Vigo County Public Library) and the Clara Fairbanks Home for Aged Women.

Fairbanks Park, the only riverside park in the city, was located at First and Park Sts. on land which had been a dump. The city welcomed not only the much needed recreation area for the neighborhood, but also the opportunity to be rid of the unsightly and unsafe trash heap along the Wabash River.

Over the years more acreage has been acquired. Paul Dresser Memorial Drive and the Chauncey Rose Memorial created by the Banks of the Wabash Association, a group of citizens and property owners organized in 1932 dedicated to the improvement of the western entrance to the city and the section west of Fifth Street, have come to be a part of the park. Today, Fairbanks Park consists of 104 acres of land stretching along the West bank of the Wabash River from Ohio St. to beyond the IMC plant.

The Chauncey Rose Memorial was built in 1938 using the columns and facade of the old post office building at 7th and Cherry Sts. Funds were provided by the B.O.W.A. and labor was provided

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by the PWA, a government program to create jobs during the Great Depression. Dedicated to the local businessman and philanthropist, the memorial also serves "to perpetuate the memory of those, who by their generous material gifts, have enlarged the spiritual, educational, physical, and recreational life of this community."

Paul Dresser Drive, also completed in the late 1930's, winds along the west edge of the park and honors the Terre Haute native who composed the State Song of Indiana, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away."

Originally intended to encircle the entire city of Terre Haute in boulevard fashion, the drive is now confined only to Fairbanks Park. However, at one time it did meander along the banks of the Wabash River from the river bridge on the north to Margaret Ave. on the south.

Fairbanks Park was the site of the first municipal swimming pool in the city and was beautified by a sunken garden complete with a grotto shrine in the center. An amphitheatre in front of the Chauncey Rose Memorial and 200 Lombardy Poplar trees along Dresser Drive made the park a showplace for the city. An artesian well near the north entrance attracted those who believed in the health benefits of the odorous mineral water.

The last years of the Great Depression caused funds for public projects to be scarce and during World War II attention was turned to the war effort. The park fell into a state of disrepair during the 1940's and following the war, metal quonset huts were placed in the park as temporary housing for returning veterans. The unsightly buildings remained standing long after they were needed.

In 1963 Fairbanks Park became the appropriate home of the Birthplace of Paul Dresser. The pre-Civil War workingman's home was originally located at 318 S. Second St. in an area scheduled to be levelled during an urban renewal project. Through the efforts of the Vigo County Historical Society the small brick building was moved to its new site and has become a State Shrine and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors may tour the home on

Sunday afternoons during June, July and August, or at other times by special appointment.

The park was to remain in fairly poor condition until the 1980's when a three phase rejuvenation program funded by Community Development Block Grants and the Nat'l. Park Service through the Terre Haute Redevelopment Department was begun.

Phase I consisted of restoration of the Chauncey Rose Memorial and the construction of a stage and 1,000 seat amphitheatre.

Phase II brought the addition of restroom facilities, a new parking area, new curbing and road resurfacing, and landscape work.

The final phase has provided a park shelter overlooking the Wabash River, a fishing dock accessible to handicapped persons, a boat launch facility, and additional walkways.

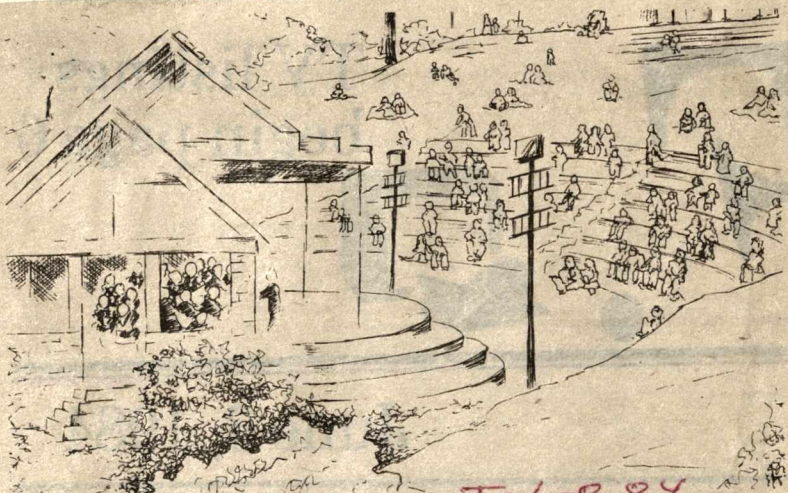
The beautiful fountain in the sunken garden area of the park was designed by Indiana State University graphic arts student Tom DuBois of New York. The Terre Haute Department of Parks and Recreation held a contest to select a fountain designed to be the focal point of the park. DuBois was awarded \$1000 by ARCO Metals for his prize winning concept of the fountain.

The Girl Scout Covered Bridge Council and the YWCA leased land in Fairbanks Park from the city to build their new headquarters in the early 1970's. The two buildings on the south edge of the park add to the beauty of the area and also provide access to the park for members of both groups. The Wayne Meyers Softball Park is also located on park property.

Since 1974, the annual Banks of the Wabash Festival, sponsored by the Banks of the Wabash Festival Association, has been held in Fairbanks Park in late May and early June. Visitors from all over the Wabash Valley have been drawn to the festival which features crafts, entertainment, food, and games. Sponsorship of the event by the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department began in 1984 and the name was changed to the Wabash Valley Festival.

The natural beauty of Fairbanks Park is enhanced by the historical and cultural attractions featured at the site. Terre Haute can once again be proud of its park on the banks of the Wabash.





Ts6-8-8Y

# Air Force Band, race highlight activities

Parks + Recreation

Community Affairs File

An appearance by the U.S. Air Force Jazz Band on Saturday and the rescheduled running of the Tony Hulman Classic race Sunday are among the entertainment highlights this week in the Wabash Valley.

The Air Force band will be the special guest during the Fairbanks Park renovation, commemorating the conclusion of a \$1.2 million, four-phase project to upgrade the west-side riverfront park that began in 1981. The band will join the Backseat Four Barbershop Quartet, the Sycamore Strummers and Heavens Harmony Gospel Singers in performances at the outdoor amphitheater from 1 to 5 p.m. Also appearing at the ceremony will be magician Dan Brock, entertainer Billy Bob and Pete Gallagher the clown from noon to 5 p.m.

Improvements for the 107-acre park in recent years have in-

cluded new paving, sidewalks, curbs, landscaping and the construction of the amphitheater (1981); a restroom/maintenance building (1982); and boat ramp, handicapped fishing pier, riverfront walk, new fountain, ice rink and parking lots (1983-84). The project was funded through community block grant funds, Land/Water Conservation funds and the state of Indiana.

The weekend's other "big" event is the 14th running of the Hulman Classic Sunday afternoon at the Action Track, U.S. 41 South. Race officials have been unlucky in planning this year's USAC-sponsored sprint car race. It was called off twice due to bad weather (May 6 and May 13).

Qualifying will be at 1 p.m. Sunday with the first heat race at 2 p.m.

For additional information about upcoming events in the area turn to page 4 of this section.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library



# Bird flying into Fairbanks Park for today's citywide celebration

1's AUG 2 1984  
By Joe Baker  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Larry Bird will make a fitting entrance to a celebration in his honor at noon today when he swoops down on Fairbanks Park in a helicopter.

Bird will be accompanied by Max Gibson, president of Gibson Coal Co., city Parks Superintendent Pat Ralston said.

Ralston informed Parks board members about the Bird's whirlybird entrance during a meeting Tuesday.

Board action centered on a proposed Torner Community Center, Fairbanks Park renovation, Hulman Links clubhouse and sale of park property.

Board members approved a scaled-down design and ordered

rebuilding on a new Torner Center in Deming Park. Bids received in June exceeded \$140,000.

Ralston said he wanted the privately financed project to cost no more than \$100,000. A weight room, amounting to 800 square feet, was cut out of the design. The building's size now will be about 4,600 square feet.

Rebidding will delay 90-day construction, pushing a projected completion date into the fall.

The board also gave a stamp of approval to a \$535,000 final phase of a \$1.2 million Fairbanks Park renovation. The federally financed project began in 1981.

Included in that final phase was installation of a \$150,000 park fountain, underground electrical system, boat house and fishing pier for the handicapped.

Board members acted to cut \$2,400 from the \$400,000 privately

financed Hulman Links clubhouse project. Donation of two hand dryers by Crown Electric Inc., 2946 S. 13th St., canceled a planned \$400 expenditure. A decision to eliminate frills on clubhouse rafters canceled a \$2,000 expenditure.

In board discussion, Ralston apprised the board of a May state Board of Health report that no disease was present in Rea Park Golf Course soil samples. Black birds roosting in trees, an acknowledged problem on the course, had created suspicions that threats of histoplasmosis were imminent.

Fungi spores emitted from bird feces can be breathed into internal air pockets — mostly in the lungs — and produce histoplasmosis which brings on initial flu-like symptoms.

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## Officials, entertainers join celebration of Fairbanks Park

The memory of Henry Fairbanks will live on Sunday when citizens and public officials converge on Fairbanks Park to share accolades stemming from a \$1.2 million renovation of the park.

Performances by the U.S. Air Force Jazz Band, beginning at 1 p.m., highlight a four-hour park rededication of sorts. Parks Superintendent Pat Ralston is to emcee the program that also includes performances of a barbershop quartet and gospel singers.

Henry Fairbanks, whose name is among the oldest of families to settle in Terre Haute, served as mayor for a short time before he died in 1878. Brothers Edward and Crawford donated 38 acres of the park's current 104 acres in his memory in 1916.

The donated land near First and Park streets was welcomed by the city as a much-needed recreation area, despite the property being an eyesore trash-dump site at the time.

Not until the 1930s did some of the time-honored structures exist-

ing today begin to take shape. More acreage had been acquired and a Banks of the Wabash Association, a citizens group, sprang up to fund construction of Paul Dresser Memorial Drive and a Chauncey Rose Memorial.

Dresser is the native who composed the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away." Rose was a local philanthropist.

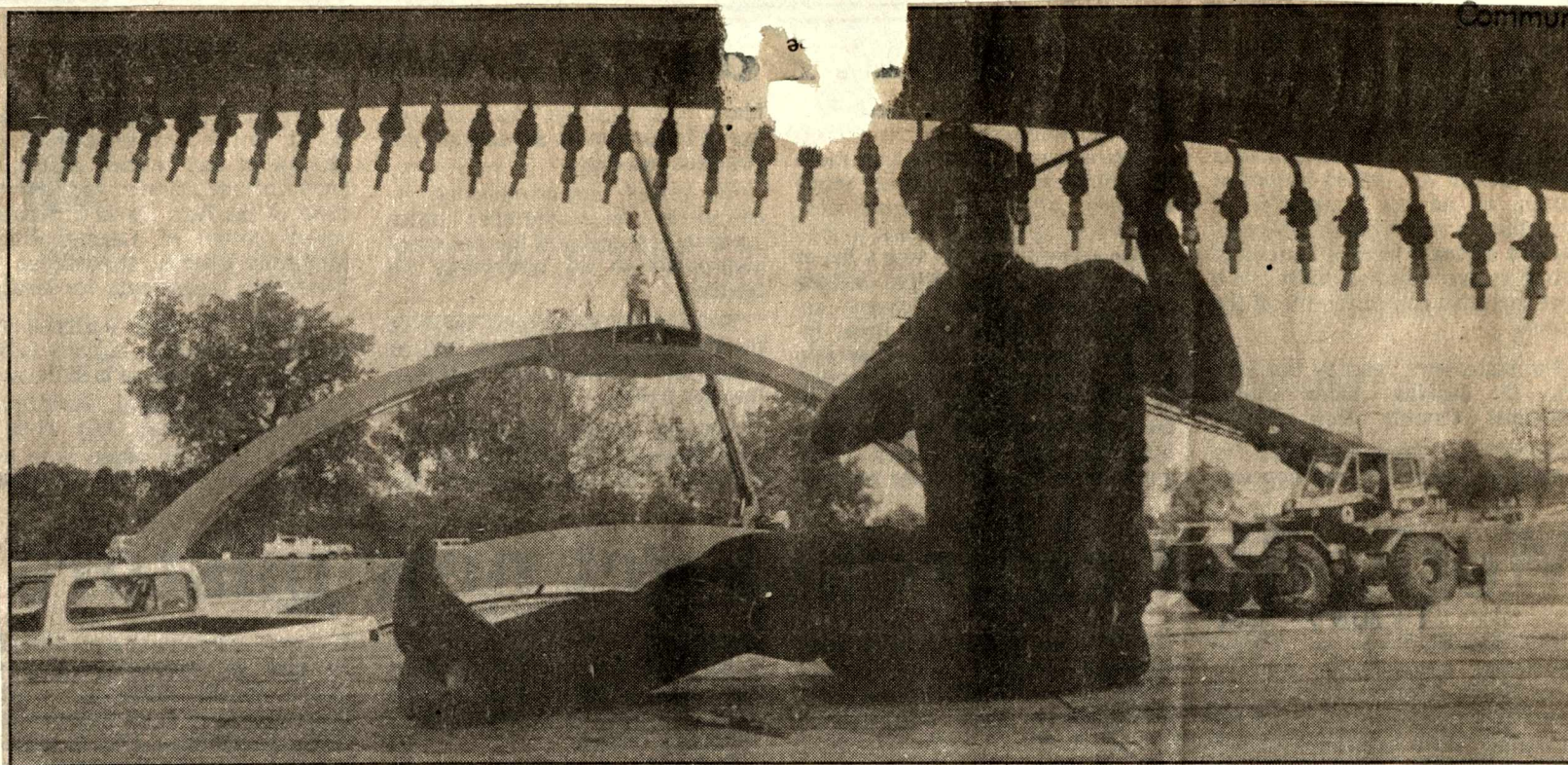
The park later became the site of the city's first public pool and the amphitheater in front of the Rose Memorial was constructed. As attention turned toward World

War II, the park lost its luster. Quonset huts for returning veterans remained on park property long after they were needed.

The park took on added historical significance in 1963 when Dresser's home was moved from 318 S. Second St. and into the park where it became a state shrine that also is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The \$1.2 million renovation, for which Sunday's rededication is scheduled, has been the only major upgrading effort the park has received since.





Tribune Star/Bob Poynter

Finishing touches: Larry Rector adjusts water nozzles on new fountain at Fairbanks Park.

Community Affairs File

# City culminates renovation of park

T s JUN 9 1984

By Joe Baker

Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Fairbanks Park will be showcased Sunday, culminating a three-year, \$1.2 million renovation effort.

Not since a memorial was built in 1938, honoring local businessman and philanthropist Chauncey Rose, has the 104-acre park along the Wabash River undergone such an overhaul.

A three-pronged renovation, using mostly federal and some state funds, began in 1981 in what P. Pete Chalos' administration targeted as the city's top priority in park development.

The Chauncey Rose Memorial required about \$87,000 for a virtual rebuilding, using 20,000 bricks and sandblasting to rid the structure of profanity that had defaced it for years.

"It was an embarrassment to go down there," Parks Superintendent Pat Ralston said about the memorial.

Another estimated \$150,000 — of the \$209,578 spent on phase one — went to overhaul the park's amphitheater. A stage was built and 1,000 seats were installed. Construction of several walkways and some landscaping work rounded out phase one.

Phase two, costing \$264,441, included demolition of antiquated buildings and installation of a new trail, costing \$7,000, was

maintenance and restroom facilities. Roads were paved and curbing installed, and a new water line was put in, replacing an old line.

An estimated \$150,000 for a park fountain and accompanying well was a major expenditure of the \$535,000 spent on the final phase three. Arches spanning the fountain are being installed today, putting on the final touches to park renovation.

Other phase three components included installation of an estimated \$60,000 underground electrical system. A boat house was torn down and rebuilt; a fishing pier for handicapped persons was built and a 20-station

installed.

Some \$90,000 in state Department of Natural Resources funds were secured for constructing a new boat ramp.

Nearly \$1 million of funding came out of portions of federal Community Development Block Grant funds the city receives a year for funding virtually all of the city's redevelopment efforts.

The balance of park-renovation funding — besides the Indiana Department of Natural Resources — came from the U.S. Department of Interior, Small Business Administration and Arco Metals. The local Lions Club chipped in \$9,000 for an existing park shelter and another that is to be constructed.

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T.H. Gazette  
1-23-85

# Park Perspective

(uk)  
Parks & Recreation

Community Affairs File

by Patrick Ralston,

City Parks Superintendent



The Park featured this week is Fairbanks Park which is located on Terre Haute's west side. Fairbanks Park has a total of 105 acres located along the beautiful Wabash River.

Fairbanks Park (38 acres) was donated to the City of Terre Haute in 1916 by Crawford and Edward Fairbanks in memory of their father Henry Fairbanks. Henry was appointed Mayor after the death of Mayor Edmunds in 1877 and then was elected in 1878. Henry Fairbanks died after serving a short time in office. Crawford Fairbanks was one of Terre Haute's prominent leaders. He had many accomplishments including the endowment of Emeline Fairbanks Public Library, now the Vigo County Public Library.

Fairbanks Park had originally been used as a city dump for many years. Remnants of the dump are still being found at the park. Extensive renovation of the Park unearthed a large quantity of antique bottles.

Along with Fairbanks, Paul Dresser drive was constructed in the 1930's to create a scenic view of the Wabash River. In 1938 the Chauncey Rose Memorial was added. The columns from the old Post Office Building were moved to the location as part of the memorial. Paul Dresser was a famous song writer who composed "On the Banks of the Wabash," which is the Indiana State song.

Fairbanks Park has several facilities added in the years before World War II to include the following: cities' first swimming pool, sunken garden, artesian well and a Grotto Shrine. After the war, Fairbanks Park was used as temporary housing for veterans. Huts were constructed which were very unsightly. Since 1959 Wayne Myers has operated a Softball Stadium located at the south edge of the Park. In 1981 a three-year \$1,200,000.00 renovation was started at Fairbanks Park to include the following improvements: sidewalk, parking areas, curbs & gutters, new 1000 seat amphitheater, Chauncey Rose Memorial repair, new restrooms, new fountain, new boat ramp, new street lighting, two new picnic shelters, landscaping and exercise course.

In 1963 the Paul Dresser home was moved to Fairbanks Park. In 1973 the Girl Scouts leased property from the City and constructed the Girl Scout Headquarters. In 1976 the YWCA constructed their new facility at the south end of the Park.

Currently the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department sponsors the Wabash Valley Festival the last week of May each year. Fairbanks Park truly represents Paul Dresser's song "On the Banks of the Wabash" for its scenic view of the Grand Ole Wabash River. We feel that Fairbanks Park has become a real focal point for the entire Wabash Valley.

By the way, Craig Shaffer's Fitness Club is an ideal place to get back into shape. Craig will give you personal instructions to help get your body in shape. Craig Shaffer Fitness Center is located at 1026 Wabash Avenue in Terre Haute.

Community Affairs File

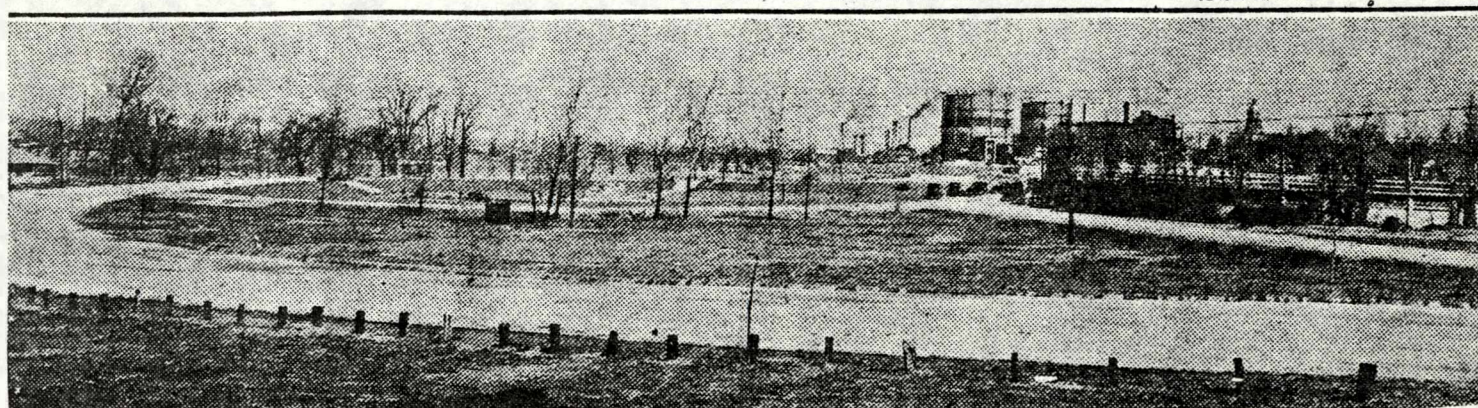
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FAIRBANKS PARK



AS DRESSER DRIVE CIRCLES FAIRBANKS PARK



Collett